

Liberal Democrats

Agenda

Autumn Conference

17th–20th September 2016

Clear print

This clear print version of the Conference Agenda matches as closely as possible the text of the published Agenda. Page number cross references are correct within this clear print document. Some information may appear in a different place from its location in the published Agenda. Complex layouts and graphics have been omitted.

The Agenda and Directory and other conference publications, in PDF, plain text and clear print formats, are available online at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Edited by Emma Price and published by The Conference Office, Liberal Democrats, 8-10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

Design and layout by Mike Cooper, mike@mikecoopermcc.co.uk.

**‘A vision for a Britain that is open,
tolerant and united’**

Welcome to the Agenda for the Liberal Democrat Autumn 2016 Federal Conference.

If you have any questions whilst at conference please ask a conference steward or go to the Information Desk on the ground floor of the Brighton Centre.

Conference venue

Brighton Centre, King's Rd, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 2GR

Further information, registration and all conference publications (including plain text and clear print versions) are available at: www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconference

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For features, general conference information, exhibition and fringe, see the separate Directory.

Standing Orders will be printed in Conference Extra and can also be found on the Party website.

Auditorium information

This Agenda covers the main conference sessions at this year's autumn federal conference.

Information concerning the conduct of the main conference sessions at this year's autumn federal conference is listed on the following pages of this Agenda. The formal rules are set out in standing orders, which will be printed in Conference Extra.

General conference information can be found in the Conference Directory.

Conference Extra and Conference Daily

Conference Extra shows any changes to auditorium timings shown in this agenda, amendments to motions, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports.

Conference Daily includes last-minute changes to the auditorium timetable, collect your copy from the Information Desk each morning for the latest updates.

Venue

Access to the Brighton Centre is possible only with a valid conference pass worn with the official lanyard. You will be asked to show your pass when you enter the secure area and you are required to wear the pass visibly at all times within the area.

Do allow time for security check queues during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

Be aware that flash photography is frequently used in the auditorium.

Please ensure that all mobile phones are on silent before entering the auditorium.

Disabled facilities

- Space for wheelchair users on the ground floor of the auditorium.
- Wheelchair lift access to the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.

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- An induction loop system, which can be linked to hearing aids; please ask a member of the stewarding team to direct you to the appropriate seating block.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions; a number of seats are reserved at the front of the auditorium for representatives using this service.
- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment.

If you need assistance at the venue, please contact the Information Desk. If you need assistance or information in advance, please contact the Conference Team on conferences@libdems.org.uk

Debates and votes at conference

Debates on policy and business motions are at the heart of federal conference. It is through them that the party sets its policy and future direction. Unlike in other parties, Liberal Democrat members are sovereign, and what they decide really matters.

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:

Proposer of the motion speaks

✓

Proposers of any amendments speak in turn

✓

Speakers called on all sides of the debate with the chair seeking to ensure balance

✓

Interventions taken (if listed on the agenda)

✓

Summators of amendments speak in turn

✓

The summator of the motion speaks

✓

The chair takes votes for and against the amendments and separate votes (if any) in turn

✓

A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

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Interventions: are concise (one minute) speeches made from the intervention microphone(s) on the floor of the auditorium, during debates where it is indicated in the Agenda.

Amendments: all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be printed in Conference Daily.

Voting: decisions on most motions and on all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting (2/3 majority for constitutional amendments). To cast their votes, voting members must be seated on the ground floor of the auditorium and show their voting badge.

Separate votes: a vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any party member: by the start of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled, or by the deadline for emergency motions for debates scheduled for the first day of conference; using the online form at libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions, by email to separate.votes@libdems.org.uk, or in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium.

Counted vote: the chair of the session may decide that a vote needs to be counted. Any voting member may request a count from the floor; if fifty voting members stand and show their voting cards, a count will be taken.

Speaking and voting in conference debates

Eligibility to speak and vote

All party members are entitled to speak and vote in conference debates, providing they are:

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- attending conference as a party member (and not eg an exhibitor or observer); and
- not registered as a day visitor.

Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as 'voting members'.

The Federal Conference Committee may also give permission for other persons to speak (but not vote) in conference debates.

Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the Agenda.

There are three lights on the speaker's rostrum and visible either side of the stage. The green light is switched on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light is switched on 60 seconds before the end of the allowed time (20 seconds before the end of an intervention). The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and the speaker must stop immediately.

Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must complete a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk.

Completing a speaker's card

When completing a speaker's card, remember:

- 1 Submit your card well in advance. The chair and aide team for the debate will meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.
- 2 Fill in your card completely. Complete the two sections on the back of the card as well as the front. These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate, so they can call people with relevant experience and avoid a string of people making the same point.

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3 Make sure it's readable!

Don't fill every square centimetre of the card; don't write illegibly, in very small letters, or in green ink ... the easier you make it for the chair and aide to read the card, the more likely you will be called.

Interventions

To speak during interventions, voting members should complete an intervention form, collected from and returned to a steward in the auditorium. Speakers will be chosen by the chair of the session by random ballot.

Other conference sessions

Emergency motions and topical issue discussions

Emergency motions are debated and voted on and make formal party policy like other motions, but refer to a substantial development since the deadline for submission of motions.

Motions selected for debate, and/or for selection by ballot along with the ballot procedure, will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

Topical issue discussions allow members and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

The topical issue to be discussed is chosen by officers of the Federal Conference Committee and Federal Policy Committee and will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

Question & answer sessions

Any party member may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on the

INFORMATION

subject of the session, or on any subject for the Leader's Q&A. Questions will be selected by the chair and put by the submitter from the intervention microphones in the auditorium.

Questions may be submitted using the online form:

- at libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions.
- by 18.00, Monday 5th September.

Questions may also be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium, for the Education Q&A by:

- 18.00, Saturday 17th September,
- and for the Leader's Q&A by:
- 12.50, Sunday 18th September.

Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document.

Any party member may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on these reports. Questions to reports of the Parliamentary Parties may relate to any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments.

Deadlines for questions to reports:

- 13.00, Monday 5th September.

Questions may be submitted using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions. Questions received by the deadline above will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

Questions on events occurring after the deadlines above may be submitted on speaker's cards at the Speakers' Table up until the deadline specified in the Agenda for each report.

Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

- signed by 10 party members; OR
- submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee.

Amendments and emergency motions must be submitted by 13.00, Monday 5th September.

Except for the Europe motion, F27, for which the deadline for submission is 13.00, Monday 5th September, and for amendments is 17.00, Thursday 15th September.

Submitters should include:

- For amendments – a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.
- For emergency motions – a short explanation of its emergency nature.

Topical issues

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any party member: by 13.00, Monday 5th September.

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion; please include full contact details of the submitter and up to 100 words explanatory background.

Drafting advice

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted by 13.00, Monday 22nd August.

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Amendments, emergency motions and topical issues should be submitted to the Policy Unit:

- using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions
- or by post to Policy Unit, 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

Appeals

Appeals against the non-inclusion of emergency motions or amendments must be signed by the original drafting contact and should:

- be no longer than one side of an A4 sheet;
- give a contact name and telephone number;
- include a copy of the motion/amendment to which they relate;
- give justification for the appeal and new information Conference Committee was unaware of when it made its decision;

and:

- be submitted by 17.00, Thursday 15th September,
- sent to appeals@libdems.org.uk

The Federal Party

Officers of the Federal Party

Leader - Tim Farron MP

President - Baroness Sal Brinton

Chair of FFAC - Peter Dunphy

Treasurer - Lord Mike German

Vice President (England) - Steve Jarvis

Vice President (Scotland) - Sheila Thomson

Vice President (Wales) - Rodney Berman

Chief Executive - Tim Gordon

Federal Executive

The FE is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party, including strategy, campaigning, organisation and staffing. The Campaigns and Communications Committee and FFAC report to the FE.

The FE has 29 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it) and three Vice Presidents; the Leader and two other MPs; one peer; one MEP; two councillors; three state party representatives; and 15 members directly elected by party members.

Federal Finance and Administration Committee

The FFAC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, directing its administration and ensuring its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It is responsible to the FE, but also reports directly to Federal Conference.

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (currently Peter Dunphy), Party Treasurer and five other members (elected by the FE); the Party President; three

state party representatives; and the Chief Executive and two other members of Federal (HQ and Parliamentary) staff.

Federal Policy Committee

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process, including producing policy papers for debate at conference and drawing up (in consultation with the relevant parliamentary party) the Federal election manifestos for Westminster and European elections.

The FPC has 29 voting members: the Party Leader and four other MPs; the Party President; one peer; one MEP; three councillors; three state party representatives; and fifteen members directly elected by party members. It must be chaired by one of the five MP members, and is currently chaired by the Leader.

Federal Conference Committee

The FCC is responsible for organising the two Federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from the policy and business motions submitted by party members, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and taking decisions on venues, registration rates and other organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFAC.

The FCC has 21 voting members: the Party President; the Chief Whip; three state party representatives; two representatives from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by party members. It elects its own chair (currently Andrew Wiseman), who must be one of the directly elected representatives.

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All conference sessions, apart from the consultative sessions Saturday lunchtime, take place in the Auditorium in the Brighton Centre. See Directory for venue plans and map.

Saturday 17th September

09.00 Party business

Chair: Baroness Brinton. Aide: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

F1 Opening of Conference by Baroness Brinton, President of the Liberal Democrats

@salbrinton, #LDconf

09.05 Party business

Chair: Jenni Lang. Aide: Baroness Northover. Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson.

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report

Mover: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

The deadline for questions to these reports is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 17th September. See page 8 for further information.

09.35 Party business

Chair: Linda Jack. Aide: Chris Maines. Hall Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves.

F4 Federal Finance & Administration Committee Report

Mover: Peter Dunphy (Chair, Federal Finance & Administration Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September.

Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 17th September. See page 9 for further information.

F5 Membership Subscription

Federal Finance and Administration Committee

Mover: Peter Dunphy (Chair, Federal Finance & Administration Committee)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 a) The Federal Executive is proposing that there be no change to the
3 Minimum, Concessionary, or Liberal Youth subscription rates.
- 4 b) The Federal Executive is proposing that the recommended rate
5 should remain at £70.
- 6 c) The proposed minimum rate, together with our concessionary rate of
7 £6 for those receiving or entitled to receive state benefits, maintains
8 our position of offering access to the widest possible proportion of
9 society.
- 10 d) The Federal Executive is proposing an increase in the Federal Levy of
11 1% from 44% to 45%.
- 12 Conference resolves that for the year 2016:
- 13 1. The recommended subscription rate shall be £70.
- 14 2. The minimum subscription rate shall be £12.
- 15 3. The concessionary subscription rate for those in receipt of, or entitled
16 to, state benefits other than child benefit or state pension shall be £6.
- 17 4. Those paying their subscription through Liberal Youth shall pay a
18 minimum of £6 or, where a new member joins, a special introductory
19 rate of £1 to apply for the first 2 years of membership.
- 20 5. Nothing in this motion prevents a State Party from setting a
21 recommended rate or rates of subscription by its internal procedures
22 which is higher than that agreed by the Federal Conference, or from
23 introducing additional concessionary rates.

- 24 Conference further resolves that for the year 2016 the Federal Levy on
25 membership subscriptions shall be 45%.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

F6 Recognition of Specified Associated Organisations and Associated Organisations

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced

Summation: Toby Keynes

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 A. Under Article 13.2 of the Federal Constitution, the Federal Executive
3 is required to periodically propose the renewal of the Annexe listing
4 Specified Associated Organisations (SAOs), and that this must take
5 the form of an amendable motion to Federal Conference.
- 6 B. Under Article 13.3 of the Constitution, the Federal Executive shall
7 from time to time review the operation of Associated Organisations
8 (AOs) and SAOs in the light of the principles and practices established
9 by and pursuant to the Constitution and shall report to the Federal
10 Conference on such reviews.
- 11 C. Under Article 13.4 and 13.5 of the Federal Constitution, the
12 suspension of an AO or an SAO at federal level may be effected by
13 the Federal Executive and shall be reported to the next meeting of
14 the Federal Conference, which may revoke such suspension or, by a
15 two-thirds majority, remove from an organisation the status of an AO
16 or SAO.

- 17 Conference resolves, in line with the Federal Executive's
18 recommendations, that:
- 19 1. The following organisations shall have their status as SAOs renewed:
- 20 a) Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors (ALDC).
21 b) Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers & Scientists (ALDES).
22 c) Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats (EMLD).
23 d) Young Liberals.
24 e) Liberal Democrat Women (LDW).
25 f) Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association (LDLA).
26 g) LGBT+ Liberal Democrats.
27 h) Parliamentary Candidates Association (PCA).
- 28 2. The annexe to the Federal Constitution listing SAOs shall be renewed,
29 inclusive of the SAOs listed in A (above).
- 30 3. The following organisations shall have their SAO status removed:
- 31 a) Agents and Organisers Association (AOA).
- 32 4. The following organisations shall have their AO status removed:
- 33 a) Liberal Democrat Friends of the Armed Forces (LDFAF).
34 b) Liberal Democrats for Peace and Security.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

A motion to remove SAO or AO status requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

10.20 Party business

Chair: Cllr Paul Tilsley. Aide: Liz Lynne. Hall Aide: Justine McGuinness.

F7 Federal Appeals Panel Report

Mover: Alan Masters (Chair, Federal Appeals Panel)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 09.20 on Saturday 17th September. See page 8 for further information.

10.35 Policy motion

Chair: Sarah Boad. Aide: James Gurling. Hall Aide: Joe Otten.

F8 Safe and Free (Liberty and Security Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Lord Paddick (Chair, Policy Working Group)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference recognises the substantial threats posed to the UK and its
- 2 citizens from terrorism and violent extremism, and the important work
- 3 done by the police and security services in fighting against them.

- 4 Conference notes legislation proposed by the current Government,
- 5 including the Investigatory Powers Bill and the Counter-Extremism and
- 6 Safeguarding Bill and rejects the idea that indiscriminate monitoring or
- 7 limiting of legal free speech enhances security.

- 8 Conference calls instead for a liberal and effective approach to security
- 9 policy that is accountable, community- and evidence-based, and not
- 10 technology-dependent.

11 Conference believes that:

- 12 A. In the modern world, many threats are complex, multi-national, and
13 wide-ranging, and we need to ensure our national security framework
14 is capable of addressing these them.
- 15 B. Effective national security policy must combine the fundamental
16 values of liberty and security.
- 17 C. Community involvement is key to combating violent extremism,
18 but that there is a fundamental, fatally damaging lack of trust in the
19 current Prevent strategy.
- 20 D. A system of bulk or mass surveillance is neither effective nor
21 proportional, and that our right to privacy is damaged by the
22 collection, storing, and filtering of material – even if there is no human
23 involvement.

24 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 123, Safe and Free, as a
25 statement of Liberal Democrat policy on the interaction between liberty
26 and security, and especially on online surveillance and community
27 engagement with security matters, and particularly welcomes its
28 proposals to:

- 29 1. Scrap the Prevent Strategy, and replace it with ‘Engage’ – an inclusive
30 community engagement strategy that would contribute to a more
31 effective security policy by:
- 32 a) Supporting communities to lead in developing their own approach
33 to tackling the dangers of violent extremism.
- 34 b) Prioritising community engagement, including putting it at the
35 centre of police operation.
- 36 c) Uniting reporting procedures, so concerns about extremism are
37 handled in the same way as concerns about grooming or abuse.
- 38 d) Challenging extremist views and making the case for an open
39 society
- 40 e) Establishing immediately the Privacy and Civil Liberties Board
41 legislated for in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

- 42 2. Roll back state surveillance powers by:
- 43 a) Ending the bulk collection of communications data by the state.
- 44 b) Ending bulk equipment interference (or hacking).
- 45 c) Opposing the bulk collection of Internet Connection Records.
- 46 d) Opposing any attempts to systematically undermine encryption.
- 47 3. Recognise that legitimate investigation of criminal activity to keep
- 48 us safe may sometimes require the collection of information about
- 49 individuals who have not yet been identified; this may require, in
- 50 exceptional circumstances, the large-scale interception of information
- 51 between the UK and certain overseas 'national security hotspot'
- 52 areas only, when certain conditions are met, including:
- 53 a) The request must be issued only by an intelligence agency, and
- 54 must specify the national security requirements underpinning the
- 55 warrant.
- 56 b) All other possible mechanisms for collecting the data have been
- 57 exhausted.
- 58 c) The warrant must be limited in scope to the smallest practicable
- 59 geographical area.
- 60 d) The warrant must be limited to 6 months.
- 61 e) The request has been approved by a judge.
- 62 f) All possible steps must be taken to avoid collecting the data of
- 63 UK-based individuals who are not in contact with suspects in the
- 64 area to which the warrant applies.
- 65 g) Any data that is not relevant to the investigations must be deleted
- 66 within 30 days.
- 67 4. Only support the routine retention by Communications Service
- 68 Providers (such as internet providers and phone companies) of
- 69 communications data they require for business purposes for a
- 70 maximum of 12 months; retention of any other data for targeted
- 71 surveillance must be approved by a judicial commissioner.
- 72 5. Support the use of powers to surveil and monitor specific individuals

73 who are under suspicion, whilst ensuring effective and appropriate
74 oversight, including:

- 75 a) Judicial commissioner approval of all intrusive surveillance
76 warrants.
- 77 b) Requiring time-limited judicial authorisation for the deployment of
78 undercover officers.
- 79 c) Tightening rules around Terrorism Prevention and Investigatory
80 Measures (TPIMs).
- 81 d) Abolishing the National Extremism Database and ensuring that all
82 police and security services databases are placed on a statutory
83 footing.
- 84 e) Allowing the police or security services to apply for a judicial
85 warrant to retain an individual's web history only when they are
86 under suspicion of serious crime.

87 6. Strengthen and simplify surveillance oversight by:

- 88 a) Creating a single, independent, public-facing oversight
89 commission that would help to form a distinction between warrant
90 approval in advance and audit after the event.
- 91 b) Allowing the oversight commission to launch inquiries into matters
92 of public interest or areas of concern.
- 93 c) Giving the Investigatory Powers Tribunal remedial power, including
94 the ability to award punitive damages.
- 95 d) Where possible, notifying innocent people who have been placed
96 under targeted surveillance.

97 7. Promote technological development in the UK and give people power
98 over their own data by:

- 99 a) Requiring a clear and simple opt-in scheme for data sharing where
100 people can access a service or device even if consent for data
101 collection is withheld.
- 102 b) Introducing annual data notifications where individuals are sent
103 details of the data a company holds on them.

- 104 c) Requiring additional consent for the sharing and sale of
105 anonymised big data, and increasing regulation of pseudonymised
106 data.
107 d) Doing further work towards establishing a Digital Bill of Rights in
108 law.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

12.05 Policy motion

Chair: Mary Reid. Aide: Cllr Jon Ball. Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley.

F9 An End to Homelessness

47 members

Mover: Paul Halliday

Summation: Sarah Dickson

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 i) Homelessness has risen significantly over recent years, with rough
3 sleeping doubling since 2010 and increasing by 30% in the year to
4 autumn 2015; there are also many 'hidden homeless' people who do
5 not appear in official statistics but live in very insecure or unsuitable
6 accommodation.

- 7 ii) There are many factors that lead to homelessness including family
8 breakdown and leaving care, and the leading cause of homelessness
9 is now the end of short assured tenancies in the private rented sector.
- 10 iii) The average age of death for a street homeless person is only 47
11 years old.
- 12 iv) The needs of homeless people often extend beyond housing and
13 include physical and mental health needs, and without a permanent
14 address many find it hard to access services, benefits and practical
15 opportunities to find a job, get advice or vote.
- 16 v) Failing to prevent homelessness has a devastating impact on the
17 individual and also financial cost implications on homelessness
18 services, physical and mental health services and the criminal justice
19 system, costing the taxpayer an annual gross cost of £1 billion as
20 estimated by the Government.

21 Conference believes that:

- 22 a) The huge shortage of housing supply, in particular affordable homes,
23 must be addressed urgently if homelessness is to be reduced –
24 Britain needs to increase housebuilding to 300,000 new homes each
24 year and lift the borrowing cap on councils to enable them to build
25 more homes.
- 26 b) The Housing and Planning Act 2016 will reduce the availability of
27 social and affordable housing at a time when there are already 1.6
28 million people on social housing waiting lists.
- 29 c) It is essential that any government has a strategic approach to
30 homelessness and stronger emphasis must be put on homelessness
31 prevention, by assisting those threatened with homelessness at an
32 earlier stage.
- 33 d) The priority need system for homeless people in England means
34 there is very little support available for single people who become
35 homeless, and we must therefore work towards a truly universal
36 model of support and entitlement for all homeless people, eventually
37 abolishing the need for a priority status system.
- 38 e) Recent changes to homelessness legislation in Scotland and Wales

- 39 are welcome and the Government must closely monitor and learn
40 from these changes.
- 41 f) There are many third sector organisations which play a vital role in
42 helping to tackle homelessness and should continue to be supported.
- 43 g) The Coalition introduced a number of positive measures to help
44 homeless people including 'No Second Night Out', the ending of
45 'beds in sheds', investing an extra £26.5 million to help councils
46 deliver services and £40 million for the 'Stay Put' campaign to help
47 potential care leavers stay with foster parents.

48 Conference calls for:

- 49 1. An end to the Government's policy of forcing local authorities to sell
50 their higher value council homes.
- 51 2. Increased funding for local authorities from central government to
52 meet their homelessness duties and a strengthening of these duties
53 to allow earlier intervention in homelessness prevention, including
54 extending the definition of someone threatened with homelessness
55 from a 28 day period to 56 days.
- 56 3. A requirement for local authorities to provide emergency
57 accommodation for all people who become homeless and have
58 nowhere safe to stay, whether single or a family, for 28 days – this
59 will provide a window of time for support teams to work with the
60 applicant and move them into alternative accommodation as well as
61 act as a signpost to services including mental and physical health
62 services.
- 63 4. A review of the priority need system and the method for assessing the
64 intentionality of homelessness.
- 65 5. Involving people in designing their own solutions where possible
66 by jointly developing a Personal Housing Plan which addresses
67 underlying as well as immediate issues, as has been introduced in
68 Wales.
- 69 6. An end to the Government's policy of removing the entitlement to
70 housing benefit for 18-21 year olds, currently set to be enacted in
71 April 2017.

- 72 7. A repeal of the Vagrancy Act which makes sleeping rough a criminal
73 offence.
- 74 8. A ban on the use of public space protection orders that target rough
75 sleepers and an end to the use of so-called 'homeless spikes'.
- 76 9. All local councils to have at least one provider of the Housing First
77 model of provision for long term entrenched homeless people.
- 78 10. The Government to work closely with organisations to deliver
79 better services for homeless people and those under threat of
80 homelessness.

Applicability: England, except 6 (lines 69–71) which is Federal, and 7 and 8 (Lines 72–75) which are England and Wales.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

12.50 Lunch

13.00–14.30 Consultative sessions

Nuclear Weapons

Hilton Metropole, Balmoral.

Chair: Neil Stockley. Rapporteur: Ashley Day.

Sex Work

Hilton Metropole, Buckingham.

Chair: Dr. Belinda Brooks-Gordon. Rapporteur: Rachael Clarke.

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than the full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other Party members to participate in the Party's policy- and decision-making process. Each session

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examines a particular topic and hears contributions from Party members and in some cases outside speakers.

Each session will be organised by the relevant Working Group or other party body. The conclusions of the session will be taken into account by the group when drawing up their final recommendations.

14.40 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aide: Cara Jenkinson. Hall Aide: Liz Lynne.

F10 Tackling Corruption and Corporate Crime

Tower Hamlets

Mover: Ed Long

Summation: Richard Allen

1 Conference believes that transparent and ethical business contributes
2 to both a stronger economy and a fairer society, but that the use of
3 complex corporate structures to maintain secrecy around the ownership
4 of commercial interests impoverishes both our economy and our
5 democracy, and that such structures can both impede accountability for
6 criminal acts and facilitate tax evasion.

7 Conference recognises the public service performed by the International
8 Consortium of Investigative Journalists in revealing, through the Panama
9 Papers, how anonymous company ownership is used to facilitate the
10 laundering of criminal earnings, terrorist financing and embezzlement of
11 public funds.

12 Conference notes that:

13 i) The UK this year launched a public register of beneficial owners –
14 planned during the Coalition Government – and published proposals
15 for a register of persons of significant control for companies engaging
16 in public contracts in England or purchasing land or property in the

- 17 UK; British Overseas Territories, however, have been reluctant to
18 implement transparency measures.
- 19 ii) The Bribery Act of 2010 has created a new ‘failure to prevent’
20 principle allowing businesses to be held accountable for criminal acts
21 by their employees, and as a result of Liberal Democrat influence
22 in the Coalition a consultation on extending this principle to other
23 economic crimes is currently in progress.
- 24 iii) The Government pledged during the Coalition to publish details of
25 significant public contracts and recently announced plans to adopt
26 principles based on the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS);
27 many significant public projects have not had contracts published,
28 however, and there has been widespread redaction of commercial
29 details.
- 30 iv) The European Union has been a key institution in defining standards
31 and strategies for combating corruption and money laundering and
32 for publicising public procurement contracts; Britain’s vote to leave
33 the EU casts doubt on our future commitments and ability to tackle
34 fraud and money laundering and raises challenges for transparency in
35 public procurement.

36 Conference believes that:

- 37 a) Tolerating the widespread registration of anonymous shell companies
38 permits the facilitation of global corruption, organised crime and
39 terrorist financing.
- 40 b) Inconsistent concepts of corporate criminal liability prevent
41 victims from access to justice and give larger companies an unfair
42 competitive advantage through their ability to operate with relative
43 impunity.
- 44 c) We should continue to support and push for common standards with
45 the European Union to support transparency in company ownership
46 and public contracts, and to combat economic crime.

47 Conference calls for:

- 48 1. British Overseas Territories to be given a fixed deadline to implement

- 49 public registers of beneficial company ownership.
- 50 2. Development of a consistent and coherent concept of corporate
51 criminal liability for offences including economic crime, corruption and
52 corporate manslaughter.
- 53 3. Retrospective publication of any missing public contracts since
54 January 2011 and addition of missing commercial details if redactions
55 are legitimately challenged.
- 56 4. Provision of support for local government to adopt the OCDS to
57 publish details of local contracts.
- 58 5. Any renegotiation of our relationship with the EU to include a full
59 commitment to support the EU's work in tackling money laundering,
60 to continue to implement the EEAS's financial sanctions programmes
61 and to retain operational relations with Europol.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

15.25 Speech

Chair: Baroness Northover. Aide: Pauline Pearce. Hall Aide: Mary Reid.

F11 Norman Lamb MP, Health Spokesperson

@normanlamb, #LDconf

14.40 Policy motion

Chair: Jenni Lang. Aide: Joe Otten. Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley.

F12 Adopting Pre-exposure Prophylaxis

Bury, North West Region, Portsmouth

Mover: Hywel Davies

Summation: Paul Childs

1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) There are currently over 100,000 people living with HIV in the UK
3 alone, and in 2014 there were 6,151 new HIV diagnoses in 2014, with
4 over 85,000 people accessing HIV care.
- 5 ii) That Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (known as PrEP) is the use of a
6 prescription Anti HIV drug called Truvada that prevent an individual
7 from contracting HIV; increased use of PrEP has the potential to
8 reduce infection rates thus not only saving lives but also money.
- 9 iii) That despite its proven efficacy and potential for long term financial
10 health care savings, the NHS has yet to approve its use; it is currently
11 only available in the UK through a private prescription that costs
12 approximately £400 for a month's supply.
- 13 iv) That modelling research funded by Public Health England published
14 in January 2016 suggests that adoption of PrEP could prevent
15 around 7,400 new infections in the UK by 2020.
- 16 v) The October 2014 interim analysis of the PROUD study data showing
17 that PrEP is 86% effective against HIV for gay men and other men
18 who have sex with men (MSM) at high risk of infection.
- 19 vi) That the same levels of protection are shown by the IPERGAY, a
20 French and Canadian Study into PrEP.
- 21 vii) That the study conducted by the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center
22 in San Francisco showed no new infections.
- 23 viii) That PrEP does not provide protection against other sexually
24 transmitted infections (STIs) and is intended as a supplement to
25 the existing safer sex strategy; the PROUD study initiated full STI
26 screening before the initial and each subsequent prescription and no
27 increase in STI infection was found.
- 28 ix) The decision of the United States of America's Centre for Disease

- 29 Control to approve Truvada as PrEP in 2014; PrEP is also available
30 in France, Canada, Israel, Kenya and will soon be prescribed in
31 Australia.
- 32 x) That in 2014 the World Health Organisation issued guidelines
33 strongly recommending men who have sex with men consider taking
34 antiretroviral medicines as an additional method of preventing HIV
35 infection.
- 36 xi) That within the Liberal Democrats, Norman Lamb MP, Health
37 Spokesperson, recently called for PrEP to be made available on the
38 NHS immediately; and both the Scottish and Welsh state parties and
39 the North West of England region have passed motions that called for
40 PrEP to be made available to those at high risk of contracting HIV.

41 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

- 42 a) Champion the freedom, dignity and wellbeing of individuals.
43 b) Fight disease wherever it may occur.

44 Conference calls for:

- 45 1. Liberal Democrats in Parliament to continue their work for NHS
46 adoption of PrEP for those people at high risk of HIV Infection, BAME
47 communities and women.
- 48 2. The Government to use all available methods to highlight PrEP to
49 those most at risk from HIV; to fast track PrEP availability on the
50 NHS for those at most risk from HIV and to provide targeted public
51 education resources and campaigns about the importance of
52 effective condom use as well as other preventative methods as part
53 of any programme that makes PrEP available on the NHS.
- 54 3. Liberal Democrats in national Parliaments and devolved authorities to
55 use powers at their disposal to encourage availability of PrEP.

Applicability: England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any

amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

16.30 Business motion

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

F13 Towards a More Effective Party Governance

Federal Executive

Mover: Dawn Barnes

Summation: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 A. The structures and composition of the Federal and State Parties and
- 3 their bodies have hitherto lacked full and effective transparency and
- 4 accountability.
- 5 B. Over 5,000 responses from members and party bodies were received
- 6 to the recent Governance Review Consultations.
- 7 C. Party members want a larger and more diverse range of members
- 8 involved in decision making processes.
- 9 D. Most party members, most especially in England, are unaware of the
- 10 State Party's role and composition, assuming the Federal Party is
- 11 responsible.
- 12 E. Action is urgently required to redress the specific democratic deficit
- 13 in the English State Party and the regions distancing members from
- 14 their work.
- 15 F. In the current structures there is a disconnect between the Federal

16 Party's strategic role and some of the State Parties responsibilities,
17 notably on member activation (training, diversity) and on campaigning
18 and candidates.

19 G. Federal Conference is currently the only available forum for party
20 members in England to directly express their views regarding the
21 English State Party.

22 H. Members want a debate about the role and election processes for a
23 Deputy Leader.

24 Conference believes that:

25 i) The Federal and State Parties need to make their processes and
26 structure more transparent and accountable to members.

27 ii) The party should revise its standing orders to ensure that its
28 committees and sub-committees work more effectively.

29 iii) The party's strategy should inform and lead the work of the party
30 committees.

31 iv) The various Federal and State Party bodies should work more
32 closely together, understanding that members do not understand the
33 distinction.

34 v) The current perception of a disconnect between the roles of the
35 regions and the English Party causes problems in effective working.

36 vi) There shall be two Federal Conferences a year;

37 vii) That a wider and more diverse number of members should be
38 involved on party bodies.

39 Conference therefore recommends that:

40 1. The party's priorities will be laid out in a Federal Party Strategy,
41 including the Leader's political strategy; at least once per Parliament
42 an outline strategic document will be submitted to Conference for
43 debate.

44 2. The Federal Executive should be replaced by a Federal Board,
45 becoming a strategic body monitoring the delivery of the party's
46 Federal strategy, assessing that strategy's impact on equality; the

- 47 Federal Committees, working with senior staff, will deliver their part of
48 the Federal strategy through their work plans.
- 49 3. The Federal Policy Committee and Federal Conference Committee
50 will continue to report directly to Conference, but will also report to
51 the Federal Board on their implementation of their part of the Federal
52 Strategy.
- 53 4. A new Federal Communications and Elections Committee should
54 take on the work of the current Campaigns and Communications
55 Sub Committee and the Joint States Candidates Committee, to
56 ensure co-ordination between elections and the strategic overview of
57 candidate preparedness.
- 58 5. A new Federal People Development committee should take on the
59 work of the current Diversity Engagement Group, Training Task Force
60 and Joint State Members Committee.
- 61 6. No member shall be directly elected on to more than one Federal
62 committee each, but may, by election or appointment of that
63 Committee, become a representative on another.
- 64 7. There shall be a Deputy Leader either (a) elected on a joint ticket
65 with the election of a Leader of the party OR (b) elected by
66 parliamentarians.
- 67 8. The three State Parties review their own structures, given the
68 principles outlined above, to ensure effective working between States
69 and Federal bodies, and to reflect the comments of members that
70 they want consistency between bodies.
- 71 9. The English Party specifically review their entire structure, ensuring
72 that:
- 73 a) The relationship between the Executive and ordinary members
74 becomes transparent and accountable.
- 75 b) Members are consulted on the work of the English Party.
- 76 c) The balance of the roles and responsibilities of the regions and the
77 Executive is reviewed.
- 78 10. There shall be a review of the disciplinary processes of the party
79 reporting to Conference in 2017.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

17.15 Constitutional amendments

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball. Aide: Justine McGuinness. Hall Aide: Baroness Sheehan.

F14 Party Strategy

Federal Executive

Mover: Gordon Lishman

Summation: James Gurling

1 Insert new Article 5 and renumber accordingly:

2 ARTICLE 5: Party Strategy

3 5.1 The Federal Board shall have the responsibility periodically, and at
4 least once per Parliament, for preparing a document outlining the
5 Party's strategy, in conjunction with the Leader's political strategy, for
6 submission for debate by Conference.

7 5.2 The Federal Board shall publicise a timetable for the production of the
8 strategy and its submission for debate by Conference. In preparing
9 the strategy, the Federal Board shall consult widely within the party,
10 including in particular the Parliamentary Parties (as defined in Article
11 9), all relevant Federal Committees, the State Parties and Specified
12 Associated Organisations.

13 5.3 The Federal Board shall provide a report on its implementation of
14 the strategy over the preceding year and its plans for implementing

15 the strategy over the coming year, including all relevant activities
16 and plans of the Federal Policy Committee, Federal Conference
17 Committee, Federal Finance & Resources Committee, the
18 Federal Communications & Elections Committee, the Federal
19 People Development Committee and the Federal Audit & Scrutiny
20 Committee, as part of its report to each conference following that in
21 which the strategy is agreed.

22 5.4 The Federal Board shall have the right to receive a report from the
23 Federal Policy Committee and Federal Conference Committee, not
24 more frequently than twice a year, on each committee's contribution
25 to the implementation of the strategy, including its response to any
26 recommendations of the Federal Board, including, as appropriate,
27 reasons for not implementing any such recommendation.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

18.00 Close of session

Sunday 18th September

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aide: Mary Reid. Hall Aide: To be announced.

F15 Combatting Racism

Calderdale

Mover: Pauline Pearce

Summation: Sarah Brown

1 Conference notes that:

2 i) Negative campaigning over the past twenty years on the issue of race
3 relations and immigration, previously the province of the far right, has
4 become ever more mainstream.

5 ii) Racist and extremist ideas often go unchallenged in political
6 discourse due to a failure of both politicians and journalists to
7 challenge these ideas.

8 iii) Far-right populists and their supporters routinely engage in physical
9 attacks on others, especially against ethnic minorities and LGBT+
10 people.

11 iv) There has recently been a visible and worrying upsurge in extremist
12 attacks, especially during the European Union referendum campaign,
13 including the assassination of the Labour MP Jo Cox, and a
14 significant increase in racist hate crime following the vote.

15 v) Communities across Europe are seeing the same phenomenon,
16 especially in France, Slovakia, Austria, and Hungary, where far right
17 populists and nationalists are enjoying unprecedented electoral
18 success off the back of attacking ethnic minority communities.

19 Conference believes that:

20 a) Racism is fundamentally illiberal, wrong, and has no place in liberal
21 society.

- 22 b) Extremist populism presents a very real threat to our multicultural
23 society.
- 24 c) Mainstream parties adopting populist rhetoric, such as Labour's
25 promise of "controls on immigration" during the 2015 election, does
26 not do anything except provide legitimacy to nationalists and racists.
- 27 d) Political parties and movements, especially those including liberals
28 and social democrats, have a responsibility to ensure that racist and
29 extremist views do not take hold either within their own organisations
30 or in wider society.
- 31 e) Combatting racism and far-right populism must include properly
32 funded and supported community outreach programmes.

33 Conference resolves:

- 34 1. That the party and its members should take all steps to combat the
35 spread of racism and extremist populism.
- 36 2. That the party takes steps to enshrine its opposition to racism,
37 nationalism and the far right explicitly in its core principles.
- 38 3. To make no compromise with racist, nationalist and far right ideas,
39 and continue our proud tradition of creating evidence-based liberal
40 policy.
- 41 4. To work with liberal, anti-racist, and anti-fascist groups to combat
42 the tide of extremism, violent populism, and nationalism that is rising
43 across Europe.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 17th September; see page 5.

09.45 Policy motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Aide: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Chris Maines.

F16 The Opportunity to Succeed, the Power to Change (Policy Review)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Vice-Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes with regret the outcome of the 2015 election and its
2 impact on Liberal Democrats and the progressive liberal cause, and the
3 outcome of the recent European referendum and the deep divisions in
4 British society which it has revealed, the legacy of long-running failures of
5 governments of both Conservative and Labour parties.

6 Conference welcomes the expression of the Liberal Democrat philosophy
7 and approach to politics contained in policy paper 125, The Opportunity
8 to Succeed, the Power to Change, and the case for the Liberal
9 Democrats, based on:

- 10 a) Providing all British citizens with the opportunity to live their lives as
11 they choose.
12 b) Dispersing political and economic power, giving citizens and their
13 communities control over their futures.

14 Conference endorses the programme of policy development contained
15 in The Opportunity to Succeed, the Power to Change, based on the
16 following priorities:

- 17 1. Ensuring Britain remains open and outward-facing, collaborating with
18 other countries to tackle global challenges such as terrorism, climate
19 change and global poverty, including developing the closest possible
20 relationship with the EU and international institutions.
21 2. Creating an economy which is globally competitive, productive,

- 22 skills-based, balanced across sectors and across the UK, resource-
23 efficient and environmentally sustainable, which rewards enterprise,
24 maximises quality of life and minimises inequality.
- 25 3. Enlarging liberty, by investing in education to equip people to make
26 the most of their lives in every respect, not just through paid work;
27 promoting security without sacrificing privacy or freedom; and tackling
28 crime and delivering justice.
- 29 4. Building a fair and cohesive society through investing in public
30 services, particularly health and social care; taking action to reduce
31 income and wealth inequality and discrimination; developing a liberal
32 policy on immigration and fostering a shared sense of identity and
33 community.
- 34 5. Promoting thriving communities, through dispersing political and
35 economic power to enable communities to exercise more control
36 over their own futures; addressing the needs of rural communities
37 and protecting the natural environment; and tackling Britain's housing
38 crisis.
- 39 Conference calls on party members, local, regional and state parties
40 and party bodies to play a full part in developing Liberal Democrat policy
41 proposals based on our core beliefs and underlying ideology, and to
42 bring together policy-making and campaigning in making the case for the
43 Liberal Democrats.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September;

see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 17th September; see page 5.

11.05 Speech

Chair: Pauline Pearce. Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Baroness Sheehan.

F17 Alistair Carmichael MP, Home Affairs Spokesperson

@acarmichaelmp, #LDconf

11.25 Policy motion

Chair: Linda Jack. Aide: Baroness Sheehan. Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley.

F18 UK and European Collaborative Research and Erasmus

30 members and Liberal Youth

Mover: Stephen Crosher

Summation: Charlie Kingsbury

1 Conference reiterates the Liberal Democrat belief that research and
2 development, academic sharing and the exchange of ideas is essential
3 for the future prosperity of the UK.

4 The result following the 23rd June referendum has, at a stroke, potentially
5 deprived the UK of its premier position in world-leading research.

6 Conference accordingly condemns the Conservative government for
7 putting party before country and the Brexiteers for putting personal
8 interest before country, putting at risk the opportunities for collaborative
9 research, the world-leading status of our academic institutions and
10 research centres and exchange programs, such as Erasmus, aimed to
11 develop the strengths and abilities of our greatest young minds.

12 In light of the inequitable split in the referendum between young and old
13 and the UK's main hubs for science, technology and learning, conference
14 calls for a clear and unambiguous commitment to all undergraduates,
15 all academia, all research institutions and all companies involved in
16 innovation that the government will:

- 17 1. Make available funds to support all research activities that are in
18 progress, however long these existing programs last.
- 19 2. Fund in full all EU funding mechanisms for company innovation,
20 research and academia, such as Horizon 2020, FP8 and all other
21 such structures.
- 22 3. Pay a fair share of the administrative costs associated with the
23 running of these schemes.
- 24 4. The ongoing Erasmus program for student exchange.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 17th September; see page 5.

12.05 Question and answer session

Chair: Justine McGuinness. Aide: Cllr Jon Ball. Hall Aide: Jenni Lang.

F19 Question and Answer Session on Education

Panellists will include:

- Kirsty Williams AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education in Wales.
- John Pugh MP, Education Spokesperson.

A chance for members to put questions on any education issue to a panel including party spokespeople and outside experts. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 13.00 on Monday 5th September or to the Speakers' Table by 18.00 on Saturday 17th September. See page 7.

12.50 Lunch

14.10 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Paul Tilsley. Aide: Liz Lynne. Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball.

F20 Campaign to Save Parent Governors

Lewisham

Mover: John Pugh MP (Education Spokesperson)

Summation: Chris Maines

1 Conference notes with concern:

2 i) Proposals in the Government's Educational Excellence Everywhere
3 White Paper, including replacing elected parents on school governing
4 bodies in favour of professionals.

5 ii) That parents' have a vital role to play in ensuring schools are
6 embedded in their local community and that if these proposals go
7 ahead, then their expertise will be lost.

8 Conference believes that:

9 a) Parent Governors, as introduced in 1979 by the then Secretary
10 of State for Education Shirley Williams, have an integral role in
11 supporting school improvement and the teaching workforce.

12 b) Electing parents to serve as governors ensures the whole school
13 community has a greater understanding and involvement with the
14 organisation.

15 c) Ending the role of elected parent governors will lead to schools being
16 more detached from the local communities they serve and weaken
17 the link between family and school.

18

19 Conference calls for:

- 20 1. Liberal Democrat parliamentarians to take every opportunity to resist
21 in Parliament these proposals to remove elected parent governors.
- 22 2. Liberal Democrats to campaign alongside teachers, parent
23 governors, parents and others interested in education to support
24 parent governors and to oppose any attempts to reduce the role they
25 play on school governing bodies.

Applicability: England.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any
amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and
procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September;
see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's
Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday
17th September; see page 5.

14.50 Speech

Chair: Cara Jenkinson. Aide: Chris Maines. Hall Aide: Pauline Pearce.

F21 Kirsty Williams AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education

@Kirsty_Williams, #LDconf

15.10 Question and answer session

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Aide: Jenni Lang.
Hall Aide: James Gurling.

F22 Question and Answer Session with Tim Farron MP

Members may put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 13.00 on Monday 5th September or to the Speakers' Table by 12.50 on Sunday 18th September. See page 7.

15.55 Policy motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves. Aide: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Justine McGuinness.

F23 Restoring Access to Justice

10 members

Mover: Lord Marks (Justice Spokesperson)

Summation: Geoff Payne

1 Conference believes that:

2 A. A high quality justice system and access to justice for all, regardless
3 of wealth, are essential to a free society.

4 B. Lack of access to justice contributes to poverty and exclusion for the
5 vulnerable.

6 C. Access to justice must be local, comprehensive, properly
7 administered, affordable and understandable.

8 D. Legal aid is vital to ensuring access to justice for all and has been
9 since its introduction in 1949.

10 E. Judicial Review is essential to enable citizens to hold public bodies to
11 account.

12 F. The independence of the Judiciary and the legal professions is
13 essential to the integrity of our system of justice.

14 Conference regrets that:

15 i) Acute financial pressures during the Coalition years resulted in

16 dramatic and disproportionate reductions to the legal aid budget, with
17 severe and lasting consequences.

18 ii) Increased court and tribunal fees have deterred individuals and
19 small businesses from using courts and employment tribunals and
20 restricted access to justice.

21 iii) The Government continues to threaten further to restrict judicial
22 review.

23 Conference notes:

24 a) That legal aid cuts have damaged access to justice and increased the
25 number of unrepresented litigants, at an estimated financial cost of
26 £3.4 million a year and an unquantified cost in quality of justice.

27 b) That cuts in legal aid have led to justice deserts.

28 c) That exceptional case funding has had extremely low uptake, so that
29 many entitled to legal aid have gone without representation.

30 d) That the arrangements for legal aid for victims of domestic violence
31 have proved cumbersome and difficult to navigate.

32 e) The government's proposals to close 91 courts and tribunals in
33 England and Wales further threaten access to local justice.

34 f) The announcement of further increases to court fees

35 g) The reports of the Low Commission and its call for a national strategy
36 for advice and legal support.

37 h) The exceptional work of legal aid solicitors and barristers, and
38 the impact of legal aid cuts on their livelihoods and on the future
39 availability of legal aid lawyers.

40 Conference therefore calls for:

41 1. An urgent review into the effect of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and
42 Punishment of Offenders Act to examine its costs and benefits and its
43 impact on access to justice.

44 2. Clarification of the exceptional case funding rules and procedures to
45 ensure that qualifying litigants access exceptional funding.

46 3. Simpler procedures for legal aid in domestic violence cases.

47 4. The restitution of legal aid for first-tier appeals in social welfare cases.

- 48 5. Legal aid to be available for advice before proceedings in housing
49 cases potentially involving the loss of a home.
- 50 6. Legal aid to be available to children and vulnerable young people.
- 51 7. Legal aid to be available for permission applications in judicial review
52 cases without the risk of non-payment for unsuccessful applications.
- 53 8. A full review of the impact of court fees on access to justice and all
54 changes necessary to ensure that such fees do not deter meritorious
55 litigants from bringing or defending proceedings.
- 56 9. Alternative sources of funding for criminal cases to be explored,
57 including the use of restrained assets for reasonable defence
58 costs and company directors' insurance for the defence of fraud
59 prosecutions.
- 60 10. Defendants acquitted in criminal cases generally to have their
61 reasonable costs paid out of central funds.
- 62 11. A comprehensive independent review of the financial and
63 administrative arrangements for legal aid work, in consultation with
64 the professions and the Government.
- 65 12. Pending the results of the review, an end to reductions in real terms in
66 fees for both criminal and civil legal aid work.
- 67 13. The establishment of a national network of providers of advice and
68 legal support along the lines suggested by the Low Commission,
69 funded from a combination of government, voluntary sector and
70 private sources; such advice should include initial family advice.
- 71 14. A comprehensive system of free public legal education, incorporating
72 basic legal education in schools, delivered as part of citizenship
73 education, and the establishment of a national government funded
74 and maintained on-line legal information and resources site, backed
75 up by a telephone service available for clarification and signposting.
- 76 15. The streamlining and simplification of all court and tribunal
77 procedures, using accessible digital technology as appropriate, to
78 enable justice to be delivered more effectively.
- 79 16. The Courts Service to provide procedural advice to litigants in person
80 through a designated member of staff at each court centre and on-
81 line.

- 82 17. A ban on 'McKenzie Friends' receiving payment for their services.
83 18. All proposed court closures are locally assessed, having regard not
84 only to potential savings but also to their possible impact on local
85 access to justice.
86 19. Continuing encouragement of mediation and other forms of
87 alternative dispute resolution, particularly for family matters.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 17th September; see page 5.

16.40 Party business

Chair: Baroness Sheehan. Aide: Joe Otten. Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball.

F24 Federal Executive Report

Mover: Baroness Brinton (Party President; Chair, Federal Executive)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Questions selected will be detailed in Sunday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 15.40 on Sunday 18th September. See page 8 for further information.

Votes to approve the election regulations appended to the Federal Executive Report will be taken as part of this agenda item.

17.15 Constitutional amendment

Chair: Baroness Sheehan. Aide: Joe Otten. Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball.

F25 Changes to the Leadership

Federal Executive

Mover: Caron Lindsay

Summation: Baroness Northover

Either:

1 In ARTICLE 9: The Parliamentary Parties, insert new Article 9.2 and
2 renumber accordingly:

3 9.2 Should the post of Leader become vacant before the election of a
4 new Leader:

5 (a) The Deputy Leader or Acting Deputy Leader of the Party, if a
6 member of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons;
7 or

8 (b) If the Deputy Leader or Acting Deputy Leader of the Party
9 is not a member of the Parliamentary Party in the House of
10 Commons:

11 (i) The Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Party in the House
12 of Commons; or

13 (ii) If no such post exists, the Chief Whip of the Parliamentary
14 Party in the House of Commons, shall assume the post of
15 Acting Leader of the Parliamentary Party in the House of
16 Commons until the new Leader is elected.

17 In ARTICLE 10: The Leader and Deputy Leader, delete 10.1–10.9 and
18 insert the following:

19 10.1 The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Party shall be elected on a
20 joint candidature by the members of the Party in accordance with
21 election rules made under Article 8.4.

- 22 10.2 Nominations for the Leader and Deputy Leader joint candidature
23 must be made by Members of the Parliamentary Party in the House
24 of Commons.
- 25 10.3 Nominations of the Deputy Leader must be of a Member of any of
26 the Parliamentary Parties listed in Article 9 or of a Member of the
27 Scottish Parliament in receipt of the Liberal Democrat whip or of a
28 Member of the National Assembly for Wales in receipt of the Liberal
29 Democrat whip.
- 30 10.4 A joint candidature must be proposed by at least ten per cent
31 of other members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of
32 Commons and supported by 200 members in aggregate in not
33 less than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, a Specified
34 Associated Organisation representing youth and/or students,
35 as provided by Article 13.8) and must indicate acceptance of
36 nomination.
- 37 10.5 An election for the Leader and Deputy Leader shall be called upon:
38 (a) the Leader asking for an election;
39 (b) the death or incapacity of the Leader;
40 (c) the Leader ceasing to be a Member of the House of Commons
41 (other than a temporary cessation by reason of a dissolution);
42 (d) the receipt by the President of the resignation of the Leader or
43 of a declaration of intent to resign upon the election of a new
44 Leader;
45 (e) a vote of no confidence in the Leader being passed by a
46 majority of all Members of the Parliamentary Party in the House
47 of Commons;
48 (f) the receipt by the President of a requisition submitted by at
49 least 75 Local Parties (including for this purpose, the Specified
50 Associated Organisation or Organisations representing youth
51 and/or students) following the decision of a quorate general
52 meeting; or
53 (g) the first anniversary of the preceding general election being
54 reached without an election being called under any of
55 paragraphs (a) through (f), provided that:

- 56 (i) the Federal Board may postpone such an election for
57 no more than one year by a two-thirds majority of those
58 present and voting; and
- 59 (ii) this paragraph (g) shall not apply if the Leader or Deputy
60 Leader is a member of the Government.
- 61 10.6 In the event of a casual vacancy for Deputy Leader, upon:
- 62 (i) the death or incapacity of the Deputy Leader;
- 63 (ii) the Deputy Leader ceasing to be a Member of any of the
64 Parliamentary Parties listed in Article 10.3 (other than a
65 temporary cessation by reason of a dissolution);
- 66 (iii) the receipt by the President of the resignation of the Deputy
67 Leader or of a declaration of intent to resign upon the election
68 of a new Deputy Leader;
- 69 (iv) a decision by the Leader that the Deputy Leader resign, as long
70 as this is ratified by the Federal Board, by a two-thirds majority
71 of those present and voting;
- 72 (a) the Leader shall nominate an Acting Deputy Leader, who
73 must be a member of any of the Parliamentary Parties listed
74 in Article 10.3, subject to ratification by the Federal Board
75 by a majority of those present and voting; and
- 76 (b) the Federal Board shall determine a convenient date for a
77 ballot of party members to elect a successor.
- 78 10.7 Upon election, the Leader and Deputy Leader shall hold office until
79 death, incapacity, individual resignation or the completion of an
80 election called under this Article.
- 81 10.8 Upon the calling of an election, the Federal Board shall publish
82 a timetable for nominations, withdrawals, despatch and receipt
83 of ballot papers and the holding of ballots and shall appoint a
84 disinterested person or body to receive and count the ballot papers.
- 85 10.9 Should the post of Leader become vacant before the election of a
86 new Leader:
- 87 (a) The Deputy Leader or Acting Deputy Leader, if a member of the
88 Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons; or
- 89 (b) The Acting Leader of the Parliamentary Party in the House

90 of Commons, if the Deputy Leader or Acting Deputy Leader
91 is not a member of the Parliamentary Party in the House of
92 Commons, shall become the Acting Leader of the Party and
93 assume the responsibilities of Leader of the Party until the new
94 Leader is elected.

Or:

95 In Article 9: The Parliamentary Parties, insert new Article 9.2 and
96 renumber accordingly:

97 9.2 Should the post of Leader become vacant before the election of a
98 new Leader, the Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Party in the
99 House of Commons or, if no such post exists, the Chief Whip of the
100 Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, shall assume the
101 post of Acting Leader of the Parliamentary Party in the House of
102 Commons until the new Leader is elected.

103 In Article 10: The Leader, insert new Article 10.6:

104 10.6 Should the post of Leader become vacant before the election of
105 a new Leader, the Acting Leader of the Parliamentary Party in the
106 House of Commons and the President of the Party shall jointly
107 assume the responsibilities of Leader of the Party until the new
108 Leader is elected.

The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:

ARTICLE 9: The Parliamentary Parties

9.1 The Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons shall consist of all Members of that House in receipt of the Party's whip. Its Leader shall be the Leader of the Party elected as provided in Article 10. It shall be entitled to make such regulations (not being inconsistent with this Constitution) as it thinks fit for the conduct of its own proceedings. In particular, these regulations shall make provision for a Chief Whip and,

if thought fit, a Deputy Leader of such Parliamentary Party.

...

ARTICLE 10: The Leader

- 10.1 The Leader of the Party shall be elected by the members of the Party in accordance with election rules made pursuant to Article 8.4.
- 10.2 An election for the Leader shall be called upon: (a) the Leader asking for an election; (b) the death or incapacity of the Leader; (c) the Leader ceasing to be a Member of the House of Commons (other than a temporary cessation by reason of a dissolution); (d) the receipt by the President of the resignation of the Leader or of a declaration of intent to resign upon the election of a new Leader; (e) a vote of no confidence in the Leader being passed by a majority of all Members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons; (f) the receipt by the President of a requisition submitted by at least 75 Local Parties (including for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisation or Organisations representing youth and/or students) following the decision of a quorate general meeting; or (g) the first anniversary of the preceding general election being reached without an election being called under any of paragraphs (a) through (f), provided that: (i) the Federal Executive may postpone such an election for no more than one year by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting; and (ii) this paragraph (g) shall not apply if the Leader is a member of the Government.
- 10.3 Upon election, the Leader shall hold office until death, incapacity or resignation or the completion of an election called under this Article.
- 10.4 Upon the calling of an election, the Federal Executive shall publish a timetable for nominations, withdrawals, despatch and receipt of ballot papers and the holding of ballots and shall appoint a disinterested person or body to receive and count the ballot papers.
- 10.5 Nominations must be of a Member of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, who must be proposed by at least ten percent of other members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons and supported by 200 members in aggregate in not less than 20

Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and students as provided by Article 13.8) and must indicate acceptance of nomination.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 17th September; see page 5.

A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

18.00 Close of session

Monday 19th September

09.00 Emergency motion or topical issue

Chair: Mary Reid. Aide: Linda Jack. Hall Aide: Joe Otten.

F26 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Motions selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. See pages 7 and 9.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Topical issue timing – introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 5.

09.30 Policy motion

Chair: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves. Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson.

F27 Europe

This slot has been reserved for a motion on the subject of Europe. The Federal Conference Committee is exercising its discretion under Standing Order 1.7 to allow a later deadline for the submissions of motions on this topic in light of the referendum result. The deadline for submission is 13.00, Monday 5th September. The motion selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. The deadline for submission of amendments to this motion will be 17.00 on Thursday 15th September. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. See pages 7 and 9.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 7 for further information.

11.00 Speech

Chair: Joe Otten. Aide: Justine McGuinness. Hall Aide: Baroness Northover.

F28 Baroness Kramer, Treasury Spokesperson

@BaronessKramer, #LDconf

11.20 Lunch

14.10 Policy motion

Chair: James Gurling. Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley. Hall Aide: Jenni Lang.

F29 Investing in the Green Economy

27 members

Mover: Baroness Featherstone

Summation: Mike Tuffrey

1 Conference reiterates the Liberal Democrat belief that Britain's future
2 prosperity depends on developing an economy that is innovative,
3 entrepreneurial, internationally open and environmentally sustainable,
4 where the benefits of growth are shared fairly across the country and with
5 future generations.

6 Conference believes that this needs to include measures to improve

7 the efficiency of resource use and decarbonise the economy, which will
8 help create high skills, high value-added industries able to compete in
9 the new global markets for low-carbon and resource-efficient products,
10 technologies and services, and create jobs throughout the country.

11 Conference condemns the Conservative government for
12 comprehensively undermining Britain's growing green industries and
13 destroying investor confidence in the long-term policy framework needed
14 to support the sector, including in particular the precipitate withdrawal of
15 support for many forms of renewable energy, the planned privatisation
16 of the Green Investment Bank and the abandonment of previous
17 commitments to investors in the carbon capture and storage programme
18 – the effects of all of which will be magnified by the unnecessary and
19 catastrophic decision to hold a referendum on EU membership.

20 Conference calls for a new green industrial strategy, targeted at
21 technologies that can underpin emerging green industries, including
22 measures to:

- 23 1. Establish a clear and consistent government commitment to
24 policies that create long-term demand for low-carbon technologies
25 and related infrastructure, such as renewable electricity and heat,
26 low-carbon transport and energy efficiency – giving investors the
27 confidence to invest.
- 28 2. If possible, end the privatisation of the Green Investment Bank;
29 if not possible, use the government's special share in the GIB to
30 ensure that it supports ambitious green investments; in either case,
31 increase its capitalisation, allow it to raise funds from capital markets
32 independently, enable it to issue green bonds and expand its remit to
33 a wider range of technologies.
- 34 3. Strengthen support for green innovation, including:
 - 35 a) Committing greater public funding on a longer timescale to
36 support innovation.

- 37 b) Developing a broader range of support for firms developing new
38 green technologies, including long-term patient-finance vehicles
39 (through which government holds equity in the companies) and
40 providing guarantees, insurance or other risk transfer products to
41 increase the flow of capital towards the companies.
- 42 c) Further developing the network of R&D agencies and Catapults,
43 identifying where new ones may be necessary to encourage
44 innovation in core green economy technologies.
- 45 d) Working with local authorities to create innovation hubs, linking
46 universities to businesses, promoting mutual learning and
47 encouraging exchange of ideas.
- 48 4. Encourage the creation of green financial products to bring consumer
49 capital into green industries.
- 50 5. Include steadily higher green criteria in public procurement policy,
51 helping to grow the markets for green technologies, products and
52 services.
- 53 6. Extend mandatory corporate reporting on social and environmental
54 impacts to all large companies; reform stock market listing rules;
55 support asset owner initiatives to adopt environmental, social and
56 corporate governance policies such as the Association of Member
57 Nominated Trustees' Red Line Voting and require the Financial
58 Conduct Authority and Financial Reporting Council to ensure that
59 fund managers will implement them; and support moves to give more
60 control by individual savers over pension fund investments.
- 61 7. Legislate to require UK Trade & Investment and UK Export Finance
62 to promote exports of low-carbon and environmental products and
63 technologies, and stop providing support for exports of fossil-fuel and
64 related industries.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18th September; see page 5.

14.55 Speech

Chair: Baroness Northover. Aide: Liz Lynne. Hall Aide: Linda Jack.

F30 Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

@willie_rennie, #LDconf

15.15 Policy motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness. Aide: Mary Reid. Hall Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves.

F31 Mending the Safety Net (Social Security Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: To be announced

Summation: Jenny Willott (Chair, Policy Working Group)

- 1 Conference recognises the importance of social security in providing a
- 2 safety net for the most vulnerable; it should provide a minimum standard
- 3 of living below which no-one can fall and provide the right level of support
- 4 to each individual to allow them to achieve their potential.

- 5 Conference notes the devastating effects that poverty and worklessness
- 6 can have on opportunity through the damage they do to self-esteem,
- 7 health and educational attainment, in particular the long term effects on
- 8 children.

9 Conference calls for a social security system that is fair and flexible,
10 prioritises reducing child poverty and treats claimants with dignity.

11 Conference believes that:

- 12 i) The social security system should be doing more to prevent children
13 growing up in poverty.
- 14 ii) The administration of benefits should be fairer and more flexible.
- 15 iii) Entitlement to benefits and amount that can be claimed should be
16 based on the needs of the claimant, not on arbitrary caps.
- 17 iv) The Work Capability Assessment should be scrapped and disability
18 assessments should take into account the real world in which the
19 claimant lives and the jobs available to them.
- 20 v) The sanctions system should allow greater scope for discretion with
21 a stronger safety net to prevent sanctions causing extreme hardship;
22 employment support should be separated from benefits delivery,
23 which includes responsibility for sanctions.
- 24 vi) Employment support and benefits delivery should, as far as possible,
25 be delivered at a local level.
- 26 vii) The Government should make it easier for workers to protect
27 themselves from the financial impact of unemployment and illness by
28 introducing opt-out insurance products.

29 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 124, Mending the Safety
30 Net, as a statement of Liberal Democrat policy on working-age Social
31 Security, and particularly welcomes its proposals to:

- 32 1. Protect those out of work by:
 - 33 a) Introducing an opt-out unemployment insurance and income
34 protection insurance system to allow people to cushion the impact
35 of unemployment and illness.
 - 36 b) Removing the benefit cap and addressing concerns about the
37 high level of benefit payments to a few households, often caused
38 by high housing benefit payments, by reducing such housing
39 costs through our housing policies.

- 40 c) Increasing the rates of Job Seeker's Allowance and Universal
41 Credit for those aged 18–24 in line with increases in minimum and
42 apprentice wages for that age group.
- 43 2. Support workers back into employment by:
- 44 a) Separating benefits delivery from employment support delivery,
45 which would be devolved to local levels so it can be adapted to
46 suit local needs.
- 47 b) Scrapping fixed penalty sanctions and instead implementing
48 flexible guidelines with added safeguards so no one can fall below
49 a minimum income.
- 50 c) Introducing positive incentives for those who do more than the
51 minimum required when searching for employment.
- 52 3. Support children by:
- 53 a) Introducing a Second Earner's Work Allowance, to increase the
54 rewards of work and help support working families.
- 55 b) Reversing the two child limit which is being introduced to tax
56 credits and Universal Credit and the cuts to the family element of
57 Universal Credit.
- 58 c) Seeking to increase the child element of Universal Credit by £5 a
59 week for the first child in a family.
- 60 d) These policies would be funded by abolishing the marriage tax
61 allowance and removing winter fuel allowances and free TV
62 licences from wealthier Pensioners.
- 63 e) Reintroducing the Child Poverty Act poverty targets.
- 64 4. Support those with a disability or sickness by:
- 65 a) Scrapping the Work Capability Assessment and replacing it with a
66 locally administered assessment that incorporates a real world test
67 that takes into account the employment market.
- 68 b) Increasing the number of people benefiting from the Access to
69 Work scheme to assist those with a disability with adaptations

70 at work, particularly among those with mental health conditions,
71 and incentivising the take up of the Two Ticks among employers
72 to encourage positive employment practices for those with
73 disabilities.
74 c) Increasing the provision of occupational health services.
75 d) Increasing the amount a carer can earn before Carer's Allowances
76 is taken away to £150 and progressively reducing the numbers of
77 hours of caring required to qualify to 20.

78 5. Reform housing benefits by:

- 79 a) Linking the level of Local Housing Allowance to average rents in
80 each area so that the benefit reflects the actual cost of renting.
81 b) Abolishing the removal of the spare room subsidy and replacing it
82 with positive incentives to downsize.
83 c) Restoring eligibility to Housing Benefit at 18.

84 Conference recognises the attractive principles that Citizen's Income
85 or Negative Income Tax are built upon but believes that the harmful
86 impacts which result from flat rate schemes such as these most affect
87 the poorest and disabled, and the benefits of these schemes can be
88 achieved through putting in place the policies in Mending the Safety
89 Net; the housing market in the UK and the additional costs of disability
90 mean that an element of means-testing is necessary within the social
91 security system to protect the most vulnerable, and Citizens' Income or
92 Negative Income Tax in practice would not be a fair or cost effective way
93 of providing social security.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of
any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and
procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make

concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18th September; see page 5.

16.45 Party Business

Chair: Baroness Sheehan. Aide: Cllr Jon Ball. Hall Aide: Liz Lynne.

F32 Report of the Diversity Engagement Group

Mover: Baroness Hussein-Ece (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

F33 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

Mover: Candy Piercy

The deadline for questions to these reports is 13.00, Monday 5th September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 15.45 on Monday 19th September. See page 8 for further information.

17.00 Constitutional amendments

Chair: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee). Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson.

F34 Diversity Quotas

Federal Executive

Mover: Dawn Barnes

Summation: Neil Fawcett (Vice Chair, Federal Executive Committee)

1 In Article 2.4, from 'If and insofar ...' (line 4) to the end, delete all and insert
2 the following, and renumber accordingly:

3 2.5 Whenever this Constitution provides for the election by party
4 members to a Federal Committee, not less than 40% or, if 40%
5 is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not
6 exceeding 40% of those elected shall self-identify as men or non-
7 binary people, and self-identify as women or non-binary people
8 respectively;

9 2.6 Whenever this Constitution provides for the election by party
10 members of ten or more persons to any Federal Committee or
11 other Federal body:

12 (a) not less than 10% or, if 10% is not a whole number, the whole
13 number nearest to but not exceeding 10% shall be from
14 underrepresented ethnic backgrounds;

15 (b) not less than 10% or, if 10% is not a whole number, the whole
16 number nearest to but not exceeding 10% shall be disabled
17 people; and

18 (c) not less than 10% or, if 10% is not a whole number, the whole
19 number nearest to but not exceeding 10% shall be people from
20 under-represented sexual orientations and gender identities,
21 including trans and non-binary identities.

22 2.7 The provisions of this clause shall not prevent places being filled
23 if diversity requirements are not met due to insufficient candidates
24 with the stated characteristic being nominated. Such elections shall
25 take place from a common list and in accordance with the election
26 rules made by the Federal Board as from time to time in force.
27 Where this Constitution or any Standing Orders made thereunder
28 appear to conflict with the Act, the provisions of the Act shall
29 prevail.

The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:

2.4 The provisions of this Constitution shall be implemented with regard
to the principle that men and women shall have an equal opportunity

of participating at every level of the Party subject to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 (the Act). If and insofar as the Act may be amended to permit positive action by political parties to secure adequate representation of groups having protected characteristics within the meaning of the Act on internal party bodies, and there is no opportunity to propose an constitutional amendment to Conference before a relevant internal election, the Federal Executive shall introduce such provisions as they consider to be appropriate to take advantage of such amendment of the Act. The Federal Executive shall ensure that such provisions as they may so introduce shall be brought before Conference as a constitutional amendment at the next reasonable opportunity. Where this Constitution or any Standing Orders made there under appear to conflict with the Act, the provisions of the Act shall prevail.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18th September; see page 5.

A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

18.00 Close of session

Tuesday 20th September

09.00 Emergency motion or topical issue discussion

Chair: James Gurling (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee). Aide: Joe Otten. Hall Aide: Mary Reid.

F35 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or motions, or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Monday 5th September. Motions selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. See pages 7 and 9.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Topical issue timing – introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 5.

09.45 Constitutional amendment

Chair: Baroness Doocey. Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves. Hall Aide: Baroness Northover.

F36 Committees

Federal Executive

Mover: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Summation: Chris White

- 1 Insert new Article 7, and renumber accordingly:

2 ARTICLE 7: Committees of the Federal Party

- 3 7.1. The Committees of the Federal Party shall be the Federal Board,
4 the Federal Policy Committee, the Federal Conference Committee,
5 the Federal People Development Committee, the Federal Finance
6 & Resources Committee, the Federal Communications & Elections
7 Committee, the Federal International Relations Committee and the
8 Federal Audit & Scrutiny Committee. Each Committee may appoint
9 one of more Vice Chairs to stand in for the Chair and to undertake
10 such other tasks as the Committee may from time to time provide.
- 11 7.2. No person elected by all members of the Party to a Committee
12 of the Federal Party may simultaneously be elected by the same
13 method to any other such Committee.
- 14 7.3. Any member of a Committee who does not attend a meeting for
15 6 months without good reason shall be deemed to have resigned
16 from that Committee.
- 17 7.4. The term of office for each Committee of the Federal Party shall
18 last for three years. All elections to Federal Committees by party
19 members and other Federal Committees shall be governed by
20 this term of office. It shall commence from the first meeting of that
21 Committee following a triennial election. The first meeting of that
22 Committee shall take place no later than three months after the
23 declaration of the results in the triennial election.
- 24 7.5. The Federal Finance & Resources Committee, the Federal
25 Communications & Elections Committee, the Federal People
26 Development Committee, the Federal International Relations
27 Committee and the Federal Audit & Scrutiny Committee shall be
28 accountable to the Federal Board and will report as required by
29 the Federal Board. The Federal Board shall also have regard to the
30 desirability of establishing a subcommittee responsible for the co-
31 ordination of the Party's activities,
- 32 7.6. The Federal Board, the Federal Conference Committee and the
33 Federal Policy Committee shall each table a written report at each
34 meeting of the Conference, with time giving at the Conference

35 to debate each report. All other Committees shall report to the
36 Conference as part of the Federal Board's report.

37 7.7. Each Committee of the Federal Party shall make regulations to
38 govern the operation of the Committee and anybody accountable
39 to it. Such regulations must include:

- 40 (a) a transparency policy which sets out when discussions of the
41 Committee, and papers submitted to it, shall be confidential
42 and which keeps confidentiality to a necessary minimum;
- 43 (b) provisions for reports to be made to party members after the
44 completion of each full meeting of the Committee, including
45 the responsibility of the Chair to report on the meeting and the
46 Committee's work in a manner deemed practical by the Federal
47 Chief Executive within 14 days of the conclusion of the said
48 meeting;
- 49 (c) a conflict of interests policy, which shall include the requirement
50 for all members of any Committee or other body governed by
51 this Constitution or by regulations made thereto to complete a
52 Declaration of Interest in a prescribed form. It shall also require
53 any member and any other person attending a meeting to
54 declare any interest which might affect or be seen to affect
55 their contribution to the work of that body, and in particular to
56 declare any actual or potential conflict of interest or loyalty;
- 57 (d) provision for any sub-committees or other groups established
58 under Article 7.10 also to have regulations covering the above
59 three areas; and
- 60 (e) provision for:
- 61 (i) the election by the committee of a chair (unless specified
62 elsewhere in this constitution) and, if the committee so
63 chooses, one or more Vice Chairs;
- 64 (ii) limits on the number of terms officers of the committee
65 can serve sequentially (this provision does not apply to the
66 Leader, Deputy Leader or President).

67 7.8. The Federal Chief Executive shall make arrangements for the
68 attendance of Party staff at meetings of Federal Committees who

69 shall support the Committees and report to the Federal Chief
70 Executive's management team.

71 7.9 The Federal Chief Executive shall be responsible for maintaining
72 and making available to party members an up-to-date copy of this
73 Constitution and any regulations made under any Article in it. At
74 their discretion, this may also include rules from other parts of the
75 Party.

76 7.10 Each Committee shall have the power by regulation to establish
77 sub-committees and other groups which shall be accountable to
78 it. They may also by mutual agreement and by agreed regulations
79 establish such subcommittees or other groups jointly with other
80 Committees and may include representatives of State Parties on
81 such bodies subject to their agreement.

82 7.11 Any regulation establishing a sub-committee or other group shall
83 normally set out terms of reference for that body, including the
84 purpose of that body; its duties and powers; its accountability and
85 reporting arrangements; its members and chair; any term limits
86 for the body and its members; and administrative arrangements
87 including where appropriate the member of staff responsible for
88 providing support and reporting to the Federal Chief Executive and
89 their management team.

90 7.12 In all their work, committees and other bodies shall have full regard
91 for the diversity of the Party, including in any appointments, co-
92 options and quotas agreed by the Party. The chair of each such
93 committee and body shall be responsible for promoting such
94 diversity.

95 Delete Articles 6.8, 7.3 and 8.3, and renumber accordingly.

96 In Article 12.1, line 3 and 14, delete "two" and insert "three".

97 In Article 12.3, line four, delete "two" and insert "three".

98 In Article 12.4, line two, delete "two" and insert "three".

99 AND

100 Delete Article 8: The Federal Executive, and insert new Article 6: The
101 Federal Board:

102 ARTICLE 6: The Federal Board

103 6.1. There shall be a Federal Board (“FB”), which shall be responsible for
104 directing, co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation of the
105 Party’s strategy and the work of the Federal Party.

106 6.2. It shall consist of:

107 (i) voting members:

108 (a) the President, who shall act as its Chair;

109 (b) the Leader or, if the Leader so decides or the post of
110 Leader is vacant, the Deputy Leader;

111 (c) a Vice-Chair of the Federal Policy Committee and a Chair
112 of the Federal Conference Committee, each of whom may
113 nominate a substitute;

114 (d) the Chair of any other Committee established under Article
115 7.1;

116 (e) three representatives of the Parliamentary Group as set out
117 in Article 9.4;

118 (f) one principal local authority councillor, elected by principal
119 local authority councillors of the Party from among their own
120 number;

121 (g) one person elected by the Specified Associated
122 Organisation representing youth and/or students from
123 among their own number;

124 (h) one more person than the total number of voting members
125 elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (g) above,
126 who shall be party members elected by all members of the
127 Party except that persons who, at the date of the close of
128 nominations for election under this paragraph, are members
129 of Parliamentary Parties set out in Article 9 shall not be
130 eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.

131 Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in
132 accordance with the election regulations;

- 133 (i) the Chair of the English Liberal Democrats, the Convenor of
134 the Scottish Liberal Democrats, the Chair of the NEC of the
135 Welsh Liberal Democrats, and the Chair of any other State
136 Party recognised under Article 2.1 of this Constitution, each
137 of whom may nominate a substitute; and
138 (j) one member elected by all members of each State Party
139 according to their own procedures.
- 140 (ii) non-voting members:
- 141 (a) the Chief Whip of the Parliamentary Party in the House of
142 Commons or their substitute from within the Parliamentary
143 Group as defined in Article 9.4;
- 144 (b) the Federal Treasurer;
- 145 (c) the Federal Chief Executive;
- 146 (d) one representative of the staff employed by the Federal
147 Party or by the Parliamentary Parties and elected by such
148 staff; and
- 149 (e) a representative of local government jointly agreed between
150 ALDC and the Liberal Democrat Group on the Local
151 Government Association under a protocol agreed by both.
152 In the absence of an agreed protocol, the Federal Board
153 shall determine the method of appointment.

154 The Federal Board thus constituted may co-opt such persons and
155 for such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall
156 be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall
157 not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

158 6.3. The Federal Board shall meet at least four times in each calendar
159 year.

160 6.4. Following each election for the European Parliament and the House
161 of Commons, the Federal Board shall commission a report on the
162 Party's work in that election and shall report to the Party on the
163 outcomes of that review. It shall report on its work, including the
164 work of all committees and other bodies responsible to it, to each
165 meeting of the Conference.

166 6.5. The Federal Board shall have power to establish a company limited

167 by guarantee to acquire, hold and dispose of such assets of the
168 Federal Party as the Federal Board may from time to time direct
169 and to undertake such work as the Federal Board may from time to
170 time decide. The Federal Board shall have power from time to time
171 to appoint and remove the directors of such a company, who will
172 otherwise be appointed for a period of five years, provided always
173 that the Federal Board shall not so appoint any person holding
174 any public office or office in the Party which may be incompatible
175 therewith. The Federal Board may by resolution indemnify the
176 directors from any liability arising from decisions by the Party. The
177 directors shall present an Annual Report to Conference. Any such
178 company shall oversee the Party's Major Donations Protocol and
179 the operation of the Party's Legacy Fund, ensuring that the wishes
180 of testators are fully respected and in line with direction by the
181 Federal Board.

182 6.6. The Federal Board shall have power, after appropriate consultations
183 and subject to ratification by the Conference, to make and from
184 time to time vary rules as to:

- 185 (a) membership, subject to the provisions under Article 3;
- 186 (b) criteria for Associated Organisation and Specified Associated
187 Organisation status and for the regular review of bodies holding
188 such status;
- 189 (c) party elections, with any such rules providing for the use of STV
190 (or, in the case of a single person vacancy, the Alternative Vote)
191 and the secret ballot;
- 192 (d) compliance with any statutory or regulatory provisions that are
193 relevant to the party's activities, including the Political Parties,
194 Elections and Referendums Act and the Data Protection Act;
195 and
- 196 (e) such other matters as it may consider necessary or desirable to
197 give effect to or supplement the provisions of this Constitution,
198 including those set out in Article 13.

199 6.7. The right of staff to join or not to join, an appropriate Trades Union
200 shall be recognised.

201 6.8. The Federal Board may, at the request of the Federal Policy
202 Committee or of its own accord, and having considered the
203 financial and administrative implications, resolve to conduct a
204 consultative ballot of all members of the Party on any fundamental
205 question where, in its judgment, the values and objectives of the
206 Party are in issue or it is otherwise in the essential interests of the
207 Party. Such a consultative ballot shall be in a bilingual form for all
208 members of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

209 Throughout this Constitution, delete “Federal Executive” and insert
210 “Federal Board”.

211 In Article 12.1, delete “as provided by Article 13.8”.

212 Delete Article 12.2.

213 In Article 12.3, delete “(if not already a member) a non-voting member of
214 the Federal Executive and”.

215 In Article 12.4, delete “odd-numbered year” and insert “term”.

216 In Article 12.4, delete “(if not already a member) a non-voting member of
217 the Federal Executive,”.

218 AND

219 Rename Article 5 as: ‘The Policy Making Process and Conference’.

220 In Article 5.5 (a), after “Associated Organisations”, insert “, Specified
221 Associated Organisations”.

222 In Article 6, move clauses 6.1–6.6 and 6.9 to become clauses 5.10–5.16
223 of Article 5.

224 Delete Articles 6.7 and 6.8 and insert new Article 9:

225 ARTICLE 9: The Federal Conference Committee

226 9.1 There shall be a Federal Conference Committee (“FCC”) which
227 shall be responsible for organising the Conference. It shall be
228 subject to the control of the Federal Board in matters of financial
229 and other resources. Standing Orders for the Conference shall be
230 made by the Conference Committee subject to the approval of the
231 Conference.

232 9.2 The Conference Committee shall consist of:

233 (i) Voting members:

234 (a) the President;

235 (b) the Chief Whip of the Parliamentary Party in the House of
236 Commons or their substitute from within the Parliamentary
237 Group as defined in Article 9.4;

238 (c) one representative of each State Party, elected by its
239 internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute
240 member should the elected member be unable to attend a
241 specific meeting of the FCC);

242 (d) one person elected by the Federal Board from amongst its
243 members;

244 (e) two persons elected by the Federal Policy Committee from
245 amongst its members;

246 (f) one person elected by the Federal Communications &
247 Elections Committee from amongst its members;

248 (g) one person elected by the Federal People Development
249 Committee from amongst its members; and

250 (h) 12 persons elected by party members. Casual vacancies
251 amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the
252 election regulations.

253 (ii) Non-voting members:

254 (a) the Federal Chief Executive;

255 (b) one representative of the Federal Finance & Resources
256 Committee; and

257 (c) one representative of the staff employed by the Federal

258 Party or by the Parliamentary Parties and elected by such
259 staff.

260 The Conference Committee thus constituted may co-opt such
261 persons and for such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks
262 fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so
263 that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any
264 time).

265 9.3 The Federal Conference Committee, in organising the Conference,
266 shall have due regard to the balance of state and federal policy
267 debates in the final agenda of the Conference and in particular shall
268 as far as possible organise the Agenda so that all matters which
269 relate to one or more state parties but not all state parties or the
270 Federal Party shall be considered at either the beginning or the end
271 of the Conference.

272 AND

273 In Article 7 delete existing Article 7.2 and insert:

274 7.2 The FPC shall consist of the following:

- 275 (i) voting members:
- 276 (a) the Leader or Deputy Leader, who shall act as its Chair;
 - 277 (b) six members of the Parliamentary Group as defined in
278 Article 9.4, normally including at least one from each
279 Parliamentary Party;
 - 280 (c) the President;
 - 281 (d) one person elected by the Federal Communications &
282 Elections Committee from amongst its membership;
 - 283 (e) two principal local authority councillors, elected by principal
284 local authority councillors of the Party from among their own
285 number;
 - 286 (f) one representative of each State Party, elected by its
287 internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute
288 member should the elected member be unable to attend a
289 specific meeting of the FPC); and

290 (g) one more person than the total number elected or
291 appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above, who shall by
292 party members elected by all members of the Party except
293 that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for
294 election under this paragraph, are members of any of the
295 Parliamentary Parties listed in Article 9 shall not be eligible
296 to be candidates for election under this paragraph. Casual
297 vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance
298 with the election regulations.

299 (ii) non-voting members:

301 (a) the Chair of the Federal Conference Committee; and

302 (b) one representative of the Liberal Democrat Group on the
303 Local Government Association appointed through their
304 internal procedures.

305 The Federal Policy Committee thus constituted may co-opt such
306 persons and for such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks
307 fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so
308 that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any
309 time).

310 AND

311 Insert new Article 11 and re-number accordingly.

312 ARTICLE 11: The Federal Finance & Resources Committee

313 11.1 There shall be a Federal Finance and Resources Committee

314 (“FFRC”) which shall be responsible to the Federal Board for:

315 (a) planning and administering the budget and finances of the
316 Federal Party for the forthcoming year and in outline for
317 following years;

318 (b) presenting the audited Annual Accounts to the Conference;

319 (c) overseeing the administration of the Federal Party including its
320 Chief Executive, headquarters and other staff; and overseeing
321 the role of the Party as an equal opportunities employer and

322 the maintenance of staff grievance and disciplinary procedures;
323 and
324 (d) overseeing the Party's risk management operations and its Risk
325 Register.

326 The Committee shall report regularly to the Federal Board.

327 11.2 It shall consist of:

- 328 (a) the Chair of the FFRC who shall be appointed by the Federal
329 Board;
- 330 (b) the Treasurer;
- 331 (c) the President;
- 332 (d) the person registered with the Electoral Commission as the
333 registered Treasurer for each State Party under the Political
334 Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and as later
335 amended. (State Parties may appoint a substitute member
336 should the elected member be unable to attend a specific
337 meeting of the FFRC);
- 338 (e) the Federal Chief Executive;
- 339 (f) one representative of the staff employed by the Federal Party or
340 by the Parliamentary Parties and elected by such staff;
- 341 (g) one representative of the Parliamentary Office of the Liberal
342 Democrats ("POLD") appointed according to their own
343 procedures; and
- 344 (h) five persons elected by the Federal Board. Casual vacancies
345 amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the
346 election regulations.

347 The FFRC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for
348 such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be
349 entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall
350 not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

351 11.3 The Committee shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.

352 11.4 Subject to agreement by the Federal Board, the FFRC shall have
353 the power to borrow money for the general purposes of the Federal
354 Party and to secure any monies borrowed in such a manner as it
355 thinks fit upon the assets of the Federal Party: provided always that

356 the total amount of monies borrowed shall not exceed such amount
357 as may from time to time be determined by the Federal Board and
358 approved by the Federal Conference.

359 11.5 The FFRC shall prepare budgets to deliver the strategy of the Party
360 and shall consult fully with the Federal Board, State Parties and
361 SAOs before submitting its draft budget for the Federal Board's
362 approval.

363 11.6 The FFRC shall each year make proposals to the FB on the
364 minimum rate or rates of subscription for the ensuing year and
365 the proportion of subscription income which each State Party
366 and overseas Local Party shall remit to the Federal Party. The FB
367 shall submit proposals to Conference which shall determine those
368 matters.

369 A higher recommended rate or rates of subscription may also be
370 determined by the same procedure. Nothing in this Constitution
371 shall prevent a State Party from setting a recommended rate or
372 rates of subscription by its internal procedures which is higher than
373 that agreed by the Federal Conference under this Article.

374 Delete Article 3.9 and renumber accordingly.

375 In Article 12.3, line 1, delete "FAC" and insert "FFRC".

376 In Article 12.4, line 4, delete "FAC" and insert "FFRC".

377 AND

378 Insert new Article 12 and renumber accordingly:

379 ARTICLE 12: The Federal Communications and Elections Committee

380 12.1 There shall be a Federal Communications & Elections Committee
381 (FCEC) which shall be accountable to the Federal Board and shall
382 report to each ordinary meeting of the Board. The Committee shall
383 oversee the implementation of the Party's strategy in relation to
384 elections, campaigns and communications.

385 12.2 The Committee shall consist of:

386 i. Voting members:

387 a. the Chair of the Committee who shall be elected by the
388 Federal Board;

389 b. The President;

390 c. The Leader, who may nominate a substitute who shall have
391 the power to vote;

392 d. The Chief Whip of the Parliamentary Party in the House of
393 Commons, or their substitute from within the Parliamentary
394 Group as defined in Article 9.4;

395 e. Two representatives of the Parliamentary Group as defined
396 in Article 9.4;

397 f. One person nominated by the SAO representing
398 councillors;

399 g. One person appointed by each State Party according to
401 their internal procedures who will normally be the Chair of
402 the relevant Committee of that State Party; and

403 h. Two members elected by the Federal Board from among its
404 members. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be
405 filled in accordance with the election regulations.

406 ii. Non-voting members:

407 The Chief Executive of the Party as defined in Article 12.5; and
408 The Chief Executive of ALDC.

409 The FCEC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for
410 such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be
411 entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not
412 be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

413 12.3 The Committee shall be responsible for the organisation of all
414 elections for the House of Commons and the European Parliament
415 and the Chair of the FCEC shall chair any group responsible for the
416 management of those elections.

417 12.4 The Committee shall manage as one of its functions a Joint
418 Candidates Sub-Committee ("JCSC"), which shall include one
419 representative, with a power of substitution, from each of the State

420 Candidates Committees. The Chair of the JCSC shall be appointed
421 by the FCEC from amongst its members.

422 a. The JCSC shall maintain oversight of the Party's readiness
423 to field candidates in all elections to the Westminster and
424 European Parliaments and shall co-ordinate the maintenance
425 of standards and the performance of the functions specified
426 in Article 11.1 and 11.8, including for the first elections to the
427 House of Lords (or any fully or partially elected replacement
428 second chamber of the Westminster Parliament).

429 b. If it is not possible for there to be an appropriate constitutional
430 amendment before the first elections to the House of Lords (or
431 any fully or partially elected replacement second chamber of
432 the Westminster Parliament), the procedures to be adopted for
433 the purposes of article 11.1 shall be based as far as possible
434 on the provisions of clauses 11.5 and 11.9 as appropriate. It
435 shall receive reports from States Candidates Committees to
436 that end.

437 c. In accordance with article 11.8 (a), the JCSC may instruct a
438 State Candidates Committee to take appropriate action or may
439 take over its functions if the Federal Board so decides, after
440 due consultation with the relevant State Party.

441 Delete Article 11.2 and re-number accordingly.

442 In Article 11.8 (b), before "Committee" insert "Sub-".

443 AND

444 Insert new Article 13 and renumber accordingly:

445 ARTICLE 13: The Federal People Development Committee

446 13.1 There shall be a Federal People Development Committee (FPDC),
447 which shall be accountable to the Federal Board and shall report
448 regularly to it.

449 13.2 The functions of the FPDC, working with State Parties and other

- 450 Party bodies as appropriate, shall be:
- 451 a. Coordinating, planning and supervising the training strategy for
- 452 the Federal Party;
- 453 b. Coordinating, planning and supervising the diversity
- 454 engagement strategy for the Party;
- 455 c. Coordinating, planning and supervising the membership
- 456 recruitment, retention and activation strategy for the party; and
- 457 d. Working with AOs and SAOs as set out in Article 13 to
- 458 support them in recruiting and maintaining membership and
- 459 implementing the Party's policies on diversity.

460 13.3 The Committee shall comprise:

- 461 (a) The President;
- 462 (b) the Chairs of those AOs and SAOs as set out in Article 13
- 463 and the Annexe to this Constitution which represent under-
- 464 represented groups and the Chair of the SAO representing
- 465 Youth and/or Students, each of whom may nominate a
- 466 substitute who shall have the power to vote;
- 467 (c) Six members elected by the Federal Board, one of whom shall
- 468 be elected by members as Chair. Casual vacancies amongst
- 469 this group shall be filled in accordance with the election
- 470 regulations;
- 471 (d) One person nominated by each State Party according to its
- 472 internal procedures; and
- 473 (e) The Chair of the Campaign for Gender Balance.

474 The FPDC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for

475 such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be

476 entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not

477 be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

478 13.4 The FPDC shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.

479 13.5 The FPDC shall establish a sub-committee which shall include 2

480 representatives from each State Party and shall co-ordinate the

481 promotion of membership throughout the United Kingdom.

482 13.6 The FPDC shall also have regard to the desirability of establishing

483 sub-committees responsible for diversity; training; and membership

484 recruitment, retention and activation each of which shall contain
485 relevant representatives from each State Party appointed by their
486 own procedures.

487 Delete Article 3.10.

488 AND

489 Insert new Article 14 and renumber accordingly:

490 ARTICLE 14: The Federal International Relations Committee

491 14.1 There shall be a Federal International Relations Committee (“FIRC”)
492 which shall be responsible to the Federal Board for:

493 (a) generally managing the Party’s relationships with like-minded
494 parties and individuals in other countries and international
495 institutions, including managing the Party’s relations with the
496 European and international organisations of which the Party is
497 a member and the Party’s participation in their meetings and
498 events;

499 (b) overseeing the Party’s relationship with the Westminster
501 Foundation for Democracy and projects arising therefrom;

502 (c) advising the Party, including the Parliamentary Parties as set
503 out in Article 9, on European and international policy;

504 (d) advising the Party on campaigning for European Parliament
505 elections and other organisational matters which relate to the
506 Party’s international work;

507 (e) co-ordinating the work of internationally-minded organisations
508 within the framework of the Party; and

509 (f) overseeing the organisation and provision of training for like-
510 minded parties and individuals outside the UK.

511 14.2 The Committee shall consist of:

512 (i) Voting members:

513 (a) one person elected by the Federal Board from amongst its
514 members;

515 (b) one person elected by the Federal Policy Committee from

- 516 amongst its members;
- 517 (c) one person elected by each State Party according to its
- 518 internal procedures;
- 519 (d) one person elected by the SAO representing youth and/or
- 520 students;
- 521 (e) one person elected by Members of the European
- 522 Parliament as set out in Article 9.3.
- 523 (f) one person representing Foreign Affairs spokespeople in the
- 524 Westminster Parliament; and
- 525 (g) six members who shall be elected by all members of the
- 526 Party. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in
- 527 accordance with the election regulations.
- 528 (ii) Non-voting members:
- 529 (a) one representative of the Liberal International British Group;
- 530 (b) one representative of the Liberal Democrat European
- 531 Group;
- 532 (c) one representative of the Committee of the Regions;
- 533 (d) one representative of the Brussels and Europe local party;
- 534 and
- 535 (e) any member of the Bureaux of the Liberal International
- 536 or the Alliance of Liberals & Democrats in Europe or the
- 537 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe who is
- 538 currently a member of the Liberal Democrats and normally
- resident in the UK.

539 The Chair of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee

540 from amongst the members elected under Article 14.2(i)(g)

541 above.

542 The FIRC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such

543 periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be

544 entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not

545 be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

546 14.3 The Committee shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.

547 AND

548 Insert new Article 15 and renumber accordingly:

549 ARTICLE 15: The Federal Audit & Scrutiny Committee

550 15.1 There shall be a Federal Audit & Scrutiny Committee (FASC) which
551 shall be responsible to the Federal Board and shall report regularly
552 to it.

553 15.2 The FASC shall be responsible for commissioning the Party's
554 auditors and for representing the Party in any matters arising from
555 the annual external audit. It shall report through the Federal Board
556 to Conference including comment on the annual audited financial
557 statements. It may also commission and oversee internal audit
558 work related to the work of the Federal Party either on its own
559 initiative or as requested by the Federal Board. It shall oversee the
560 Party's compliance with external regulatory bodies, including the
561 Electoral Commission and the Information Commissioner, as well as
562 associated risk management, and shall carry out the responsibilities
563 established in Articles 8.5 and 12.3 of this Constitution in relation to
564 the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and as
565 later amended.

566 15.3 It shall comprise:

567 (a) Six members, who shall be appointed by the Federal
568 Board. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled
569 in accordance with the election regulations. Any company
570 established under Article 8.4 shall also be entitled to make
571 nominations for membership of the Committee. Members
572 appointed under this clause may not have held office or been
573 a member of any Federal Committee or a member of Federal
574 Party staff during the two years preceding their nomination to
575 the Committee.

576 (b) The following shall also be invited to attend meetings of the
577 Committee, but shall not have the right to vote:

578 (i) The President;

579 (ii) The Leader, who may nominate a substitute to act on their
580 behalf;

581 (iii) The Treasurer;

- 582 (iv) The Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee; and
583 (v) One person nominated by the Federal Communications &
584 Elections Committee from amongst their members.
585 The Chair of the FASC shall be elected from amongst the
586 members appointed under Article 15.3(a) above.
587 15.4 The Committee shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.

588 AND

589 In Article 9: The Parliamentary Parties, insert new Article 9.4:

- 590 9.4 For the purposes of representation on Federal Committees, the
591 Parliamentary Parties listed in Article 9 shall form the Parliamentary
592 Group. The Chief Whips of each Parliamentary Party shall agree
593 how many places each Parliamentary Party shall occupy on
594 each Federal Committee, having due regard to the size of each
595 Parliamentary Party.

596 AND

597 In Article 13, rename Article 13 as: 'Associated Organisations and
598 Specified Associated Organisations'.

599 AND

600 In Article 4.3 (a), delete '4.3: (a)' and insert '4.3'.

The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:

ARTICLE 3: Membership

...

- 3.9 The Federal Executive shall each autumn, after consultation with all State Parties and SAOs, recommend to the Federal Conference, and the Federal Conference shall determine the outline budget for the Federal Party in the forthcoming year (including the financing of the SAOs) which shall include:

- (a) the minimum rate or rates of subscription for the ensuing year; (b) the proportion of subscription income which each State Party and overseas Local Party shall remit to the Federal Party;
- (c) a statement agreed by the Federal and all State Parties about the organisation of fund-raising activities for the forthcoming year; and
- (d) a statement of the strategic and political priorities upon which the proposals are based.

A higher recommended rate or rates of subscription may also be determined by the same procedure. Nothing in this Constitution shall prevent a State Party from setting a recommended rate or rates of subscription by its internal procedures which is higher than that agreed by the Federal Conference under this Article. 3.10

There shall be a Joint State Membership Committee which shall consist of two representatives from each of the State Parties. The Committee shall co-ordinate the promotion of membership throughout the United Kingdom.

ARTICLE 5: The Policy-Making Process

...

- 5.5 In the course of developing policy the FPC shall:
- (a) consider policy proposals submitted to it by State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Local Parties, Associated Organisations and individual members of the Party; together with the responses to the consultations carried out according to Article 5.5 (b); and
 - (b) ensure consultation generally with, including making consultation papers available to members, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Local Parties and Associated Organisations. Such consultations shall include responses to references under Article 5.7.

...

ARTICLE 6: The Federal Conference

- 6.1 The Conference shall consist of party members.
- 6.2 The Standing Orders of the Conference shall provide for consultative

- sessions of the Conference at which any member of the Party may speak, but such provisions shall not prejudice the right of the chair of a session to select speakers.
- 6.3 The Conference shall normally meet twice a year, for a week in the early autumn and a weekend in the early spring; additional meetings may be summoned upon the requisition of the Federal Executive or the Federal Policy Committee or the Conference itself or 200 members, in not fewer than 20 local parties . A meeting may be cancelled by the Federal Executive in exceptional circumstances.
- 6.4 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Conference shall be the sovereign representative body of the Party, and shall have power to determine the policy of the Party in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article 5.
- 6.5 There shall be a business session at each Conference, to which the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary party in the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament, the Federal Executive, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee shall report. The business session at the autumn meeting shall constitute the Annual General Meeting of the Party, before which the Annual Report and Accounts shall additionally be laid. The Conference shall have the right to approve or reject each such report, or to refer it back with recommendations. Business motions may be submitted to the Federal Conference by the Federal Executive, the Federal Conference Committee or any other persons or bodies entitled to submit motions or amendments under Article 5.6.
- 6.6 The Standing Orders of the Federal Conference shall allow for meetings of Conference or Council of the State Party within whose boundaries the Federal Conference is being held, at the request of that Party, either immediately prior to, or immediately after, the Federal Conference and in the same place as the Federal Conference.
- 6.7 The Conference shall be organised by the Federal Conference Committee, which shall be subject to the control of the Federal Executive in matters of financial and other resources. Standing Orders

for the Conference shall be made by the Conference Committee subject to the approval of the Conference. The Conference Committee shall consist of:

(a) the President; (b) the Chief Whip (or nominee, who shall be a member of the Parliamentary Party as defined in Article 9.1); (c) one representative of each State Party, elected by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the FCC); (d) two persons elected by the Federal Executive; (e) two persons elected by the Federal Policy Committee; (f) the Federal Chief Executive (who shall not be entitled to vote); (g) a representative of the staff employed by the party at federal level or by or on behalf of either or both parliamentary parties in Westminster and elected by such staff (who shall not be entitled to vote); and (h) 12 persons elected by the Federal Conference (casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations).

The persons elected in accordance with (d), (e), (g) and (h) above shall be elected in evennumbered years and shall serve for a term of two years from the date of election. The Conference Committee thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding two years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time). The Federal Conference Committee, in organising the Conference, shall have due regard to the balance of state and federal policy debates in the final agenda of the Conference and in particular shall as far as possible organise the Agenda so that all matters which relate to one or more state parties but not all state parties or the Federal Party shall be considered at either the beginning or the end of the Conference.

6.8 ...

6.9 The Conference may resolve to conduct a ballot of all members of the Party on any fundamental question where, in its judgement, the values and objectives of the Party are in issue or it is otherwise in

the essential interests of the Party, and shall at the same time as considering the related resolution consider also a statement from the Federal Executive as to the financial and administrative implications of such a ballot. Such a ballot shall be in a bilingual form for all members of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

ARTICLE 7: The Federal Policy Committee

...

7.2 The FPC shall consist of the following:

(a) the Leader; (b) one other MP elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons; (c) one MP each elected by and from members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons representing constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales respectively; (d) one Peer elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords; (e) one MEP elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament; (f) the President; (g) three principal local authority councillors, elected by principal local authority councillors of the Party from among their own number; (h) one Representative of each State Party, elected by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the FPC); and (i) one more person than the total number elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected by the Federal Conference (which shall be filled in accordance with electoral regulations) except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.

The persons elected in accordance with (b), (c) (d), (e), (g), and (i) above shall be elected in even-numbered years and shall serve for a term for two years from the date of election and its chair shall be elected every two years by the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons from among those of its members who are members of the FPC by virtue of paragraphs (a) through (c) of this Article. The FPC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not

exceeding two years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

- 7.3 The Chair of the Federal Policy Committee shall, within 14 days of each committee meeting, make available to party members and other Federal Committees a written report on the proceedings of the meeting, including reports from their established sub-committees with delegated responsibility, in a manner deemed practical by the Federal Chief Executive.

...

ARTICLE 8: The Federal Executive

- 8.1 There shall be a Federal Executive, which shall be responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party. It shall consist of the following:
- (i) voting members: (a) the President, who shall act as its chair; (b) the Vice-Presidents; (c) the Leader; (d) two other MPs elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons; (e) one Peer elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords; (f) one MEP elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament; (g) two principal local authority councillors elected by principal local authority councillors of the Party from among their own number; (h) one representative of each State Party, elected by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the Federal Executive); (i) one more person than the total number of voting members elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected by the Federal Conference (casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the electoral regulations) except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph. (ii) The persons elected in accordance with 8.1(i) (d), (e), (f), (g) and (i) above shall be elected in even-numbered years and shall serve for a term of two years from 1st January after

the date of election. (iii) non voting members: (a) the Chief Whip (or his substitute from within the Parliamentary Party as defined in Article 9.1); (b) the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee and the Treasurer in accordance with Articles 12.4 and 12.5; (c) the Federal chief executive and a representative of the staff employed by the Party at federal level or by the Parliamentary Parties elected by such staff; and (d) the chair of the Federal Policy Committee.

The Federal Executive shall elect at its first meeting in every odd-numbered year and who shall serve for two years a deputy chair from amongst its members who shall chair meetings in the absence or at the request of the President. The Federal Executive thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding two years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

- 8.2 The Federal Executive shall have power from time to time to establish, appoint and remove members of, and vary committees and sub-committees, which shall be responsible to it and which shall report regularly. In particular, it shall establish a Finance and Administration Committee ("FAC") whose members shall serve for a term of two years and which will be responsible to the Federal Executive for:
- (a) planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party;
 - (b) directing the administration of the Federal Party including its chief executive, headquarters and other staff; and
 - (c) overseeing the role of the Party as an equal opportunities employer and the maintenance of grievance and disciplinary procedures,
 - (d) ensuring the compliance of the Party at all levels with the provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and shall consist of: (a) the Chair of the FAC; (b) the Treasurer; (c) the President; (d) one representative of each State elected by their internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the FAC); (e) the Federal chief executive; (f) two representatives of the staff employed by the Federal Party or by the Parliamentary Parties

and elected by such staff; and (g) five persons elected by the Federal Executive (casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the standing orders of the Federal Executive).

The FAC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding two years as it thinks fit (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time) who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote. The FAC shall have the power to borrow money for the general purposes of the Federal Party and to secure any monies borrowed in such manner as it thinks fit upon the assets of the Federal Party: provided always that the total amount of monies borrowed shall not exceed such amount as may from time to time be determined by the Federal Executive and approved by the Federal Conference.

The Federal Executive shall also have regard to the desirability of establishing subcommittees responsible for publicity and broadcasting, campaigning and elections, and international relations. The members of such sub-committees shall be elected at the first meeting of the Federal Executive in every odd-numbered year and shall serve for a term of two years.

- 8.3 The Chair of the Federal Executive shall, within 14 days of each committee meeting, make available to party members and other Federal Committees a written report on the proceedings of the meeting, including reports from their established sub-committees with delegated responsibility, in a manner deemed practical by the Federal Chief Executive.
- 8.4 The Federal Executive shall have power to establish a company limited by guarantee to acquire, hold and dispose of such assets of the Federal Party as the Federal Executive may from time to time direct. The Federal Executive shall have power from time to time to appoint and remove the directors of such a company, who will include the Chair of the FAC ex-officio and will otherwise be appointed for a period of five years, provided always that the Federal Executive shall not so appoint any person holding any public office or office in the Party which may be incompatible therewith. The Directors shall

present an Annual Report (including audited financial statements) to the Federal Conference.

- 8.5 The Federal Executive shall have power, after appropriate consultations and subject to ratification by the Federal Conference, to make and from time to time vary rules as to membership, criteria for Associated Organisation and Specified Associated Organisation status and for the regular review of bodies holding such status, elections and such other matters as it may consider necessary or desirable to give effect to or supplement the provisions of this Constitution or to ensure its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Any election rules must provide for elections to be by STV and secret ballot.
- 8.6 There shall be a Joint Employment Council (“JEC”) which shall constitute a forum for discussions and negotiations between management and staff. It shall consist of equal numbers of representatives of staff and management respectively; the number of representatives of each shall be determined from time to time by the Federal Executive in the light of the number of employing bodies within the Party which join the JEC (and agree that it shall constitute a negotiating forum). The Federal Party shall join the JEC. The right of staff to join, or not to join, an appropriate Trades Union shall be recognised.
- 8.7 The Federal Executive may, at the request of the Federal Policy Committee or of its own accord, and having considered the financial and administrative implications, resolve to conduct a consultative ballot of all members of the Party on any fundamental question where, in its judgement, the values and objectives of the Party are in issue or it is otherwise in the essential interests of the Party. Such a consultative ballot shall be in a bilingual form for all members of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

ARTICLE 11: Parliamentary Candidates

...

- 11.2 There shall be a Joint Candidates Committee, which shall consist of

one representative, with a power of substitution, from each of the State Candidates Committees and shall be chaired by the Chief Whip or nominee from the Parliamentary Party as defined in Article 9.1. (a) The Joint Candidates Committee shall co-ordinate the maintenance of standards and the performance of the functions specified in Article 11.1 and it shall meet at least once a year. (b) The Joint Candidates Committee shall co-ordinate the maintenance of standards and the performance of the functions specified in Article 11.1 for the first elections to the House of Lords (or any fully or partially elected replacement second chamber of the Westminster Parliament). If it is not possible for there to be an appropriate constitutional amendment before the first elections the procedures to be adopted for the purposes of article 11.1 shall be based as far as possible on the provisions of clauses 11.5 and 11.9 as appropriate.

...

- 11.8 (a) The requirements of Article 11.5 may be modified so far as necessary to accelerate selection if a general or by-election has been called or appears likely to be called in the immediate future.
- (b) If necessary the Joint Candidates Committee shall produce an emergency set of procedures for the first elections to the House of Lords (or any fully or partially elected replacement second chamber of the Westminster Parliament) if an election has been called or is likely to be called in the near future.

...

ARTICLE 12: Officers

- 12.1 The President shall be the principal public representative of the Party and shall chair the Federal Executive. The President shall be elected by the members of the Party for a term of two years starting from 1st January in the year immediately following the election and shall hold office until death, incapacity, resignation or the election of a successor; the President shall be eligible for re-election once only. A candidate for the office of President shall require the nomination of not

less than 200 members in not less than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and students as provided by Article 13.8). The President shall report to the annual meeting of the Conference and may make reports to any other meetings of Conference. The Federal Executive shall have the power, in the event of a casual vacancy, to elect an Acting President from any of the Vice-Presidents and to determine a convenient date for a ballot to elect a successor who shall serve for the remainder of the term, except that if the remainder of the term is less than twelve months, the successor shall serve for the remainder of the term plus a period of two years thereafter.

12.2 Each of the State Parties shall, by its internal procedures, designate one of its officers to be a Federal Vice-President.

12.3 The Chair of the FAC, who shall be responsible for the overall budget and finances of the Party, shall be its treasurer for the purposes of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and shall be responsible for its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, shall be elected for a term of two years by the Federal Executive and shall, upon election, become (if not already a member) a non-voting member of the Federal Executive and a member of any fund-raising committee established by the Federal Executive.

12.4 The Treasurer, who shall be responsible for fund-raising, shall be elected by the Federal Executive at its first meeting in every odd-numbered year and shall serve for a term of two years and shall, upon election, become (if not already a member) a non-voting member of the Federal Executive, a member of the FAC and chair of any fund-raising committee established by the Federal Executive.

...

ARTICLE 13: Associated Organisations

...

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Monday 19th September; see page 5.

A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

10.35 Standing order amendments

Chair: Liz Lynne. Aide: Baroness Sheehan. Hall Aide: Linda Jack.

F37 Standing Order Amendments

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

1 In standing order 1.1, 'what is on the agenda', delete b) and insert:

2 b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from
3 the Parliamentary Parties as listed in Article 9 of the Federal Party's
4 Constitution, the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee and
5 the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate,
6 reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate,
7 accounts, the annual report, a motion accompanying the proposed
8 strategy of the party, business motions, constitutional amendments
9 and standing order amendments.

10 In standing order 1.4, 'How motions and amendments are submitted',
11 delete from 'be typed clearly...' to '... and addresses' and insert: 'must
12 identify a person authorised to agree to their being composited or

13 redrafted. The detail of methods of submission will be notified for each
14 conference via the party website’.

15 Throughout the Standing Orders, delete ‘Federal Executive’ and insert
16 ‘Federal Board’.

The existing text of relevant standing orders:

1.1 What is on the agenda

- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament, the Federal Executive, the Federal Finance and Administration Committee, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments

...

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must be typed clearly and accompanied by the name, address and telephone number(s) of a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. Motions submitted by party members must be accompanied by all their signatures, names and addresses.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday’s Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Monday 19th September; see page 5.

A standing order amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

10.50 Party Business

Chair: Mary Reid. Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley. Hall Aide: Jenni Lang.

F38 Report of the Parliamentary Parties

Movers: Rt Hon Tom Brake MP (Chief Whip, Commons), Lord Newby (Chief Whip, Lords), Catherine Bearder MEP (Europe).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 18:00 on Monday 19th September. See page 8 for further information.

11.30 Speech

Chair: Pauline Pearce. Aide: James Gurling (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee). Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson.

F39 Baroness Brinton, President of the Liberal Democrats

@salbrinton, #LDconf

11.50 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball. Aide: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Liz Lynne.

F40 Future Transport

10 members

Mover: Baroness Randerson (Transport Spokesperson)

Summation: Caroline Pidgeon AM

1 Conference notes:

- 2 A. The Liberal Democrat aim of a zero-carbon Britain by 2050.
- 3 B. That Britain's urban areas regularly breach EU limits for NOx which
4 has a severe effect on health.
- 5 C. That our roads suffer from serious congestion and that our rail
6 infrastructure is failing to keep pace with increasing demand.
- 7 D. That many rural areas have suffered a sharp cut in bus services.

8 Conference condemns:

- 9 i) The failure of both Labour and Conservative governments in the past
10 to provide long term investment to create a modern, accessible,
11 sustainable, environmental and robust transport infrastructure.
- 12 ii) The Conservative's Government's failure to commit to the
13 implementation of transport investment as agreed in Coalition.

14 Conference believes:

- 15 a) A good transport infrastructure is essential to economic development
16 and to the rebalancing of the economy across the UK.
- 17 b) Modern transport development must put the protection of the
18 environment at its heart.
- 19 c) The interests of passengers must be a central priority and public
20 transport must be fully accessible to people with disabilities.
- 21 d) That devolution of greater powers over bus and train services to local
22 authorities, is to be welcomed.
- 23 e) That any widespread reorganisation of railway ownership and
24 management structures would disrupt services over a long period
25 of time and therefore the existing franchise system must be made to
26 work better, and that Open Access Operators should pay the fair rate
27 of track access charges.
- 28 f) That although supportive of HS2, it must be part of a balanced
29 package of investment across the whole country and the scheme
30 must be subject to rigorous and ongoing scrutiny to manage costs.
- 31 g) That current levels of road congestion are at crisis point and local

32 authorities need greater powers to deal with traffic offences and to
33 create Ultra Low Emission Zones.

34 h) That the sustainable future for motoring lies with a range of ultra-low
35 emission technologies and with autonomous vehicles.

36 Conference reasserts its commitment to introduce a standard reduced
37 concessionary fare for young people, to enhance access to jobs and
38 education.

39 Conference calls for:

- 40 1. A comprehensive Government Transport Strategy, incorporating long-
41 term planning and investment across the whole country and based
42 on the recommendations of the independent National Infrastructure
43 Commission.
- 44 2. The adoption of further measures to encourage sustainable transport
45 including the promotion of ultra-low emission vehicles, and the
46 inclusion of biofuels as part of the renewable fuels obligation.
- 47 3. The creation of a stronger body to act as the voice for rail and
48 passengers.
- 49 4. An increase in investment in Cycling and Walking as part of the
50 Transport Strategy.
- 51 5. Government to invest urgently in our electricity infrastructure in order
52 to serve electric vehicles of the future.
- 53 6. Rail franchises to include greater sanctions in the interests of
54 passenger satisfaction and accountability.
- 55 7. Increased investment in rail infrastructure and rolling stock, to reduce
56 levels of overcrowding.
- 57 8. The introduction of modern smart-ticketing on an intermodal basis.
58 This new ticketing should involve a full review of rail tickets to simplify
59 the system, introduce part-time season tickets and automatic refunds
60 to passengers when train services are delayed.
- 61 9. Greater powers for Traffic Commissioners to enforce higher standards
62 from operators.
- 63 10. Franchises and partnerships to improve bus services alongside the

- 64 introduction of new ultra-low emission vehicles, so that all bus fleets
65 reach the highest possible environmental standards.
- 66 11. An obligation on rural authorities to consider and encourage
67 alternatives to conventional bus services.
- 68 12. Reform of the Bus Service Operators Grant so that it is devolved to
69 local authorities.
- 70 13. Investment in infrastructure to encourage rail freight rather than
71 movement of freight by road.

Applicability: England.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 5.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for members to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; see page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18th September; see page 5.

12.50 Lunch

14.10 Speech

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

F41 Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

@timfarron, #LDconf

15.30 Close of conference

Conference timetable 2017

17th–19th March 2017, York

Drafting advice deadline (motions): 13.00, Wednesday, 4th January 2017.

Motions deadline: 13.00, Wednesday, 18th January 2017.

Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions): 13.00, Tuesday, 28th February 2017.

Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports: 13.00, Tuesday, 14th March 2017.

16th–20th September 2017, Bournemouth *

Drafting advice deadline (motions): 13.00, Wednesday, 14th June 2017.

Motions deadline: 13.00, Wednesday, 28th June 2017.

Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions): 13.00, Monday, 21st August 2017.

Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports: 13.00, Monday, 4th September 2017.

(* Subject to the review of the trial 4-day conference of September 2016.)